

Let's assume you don't wish to look like everyone else.

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Identity crisis averted.

Glance again at our saloon. The Royale could hardly be described as look-alike, neither does it ask you to pay any more, nor are there masses of them.

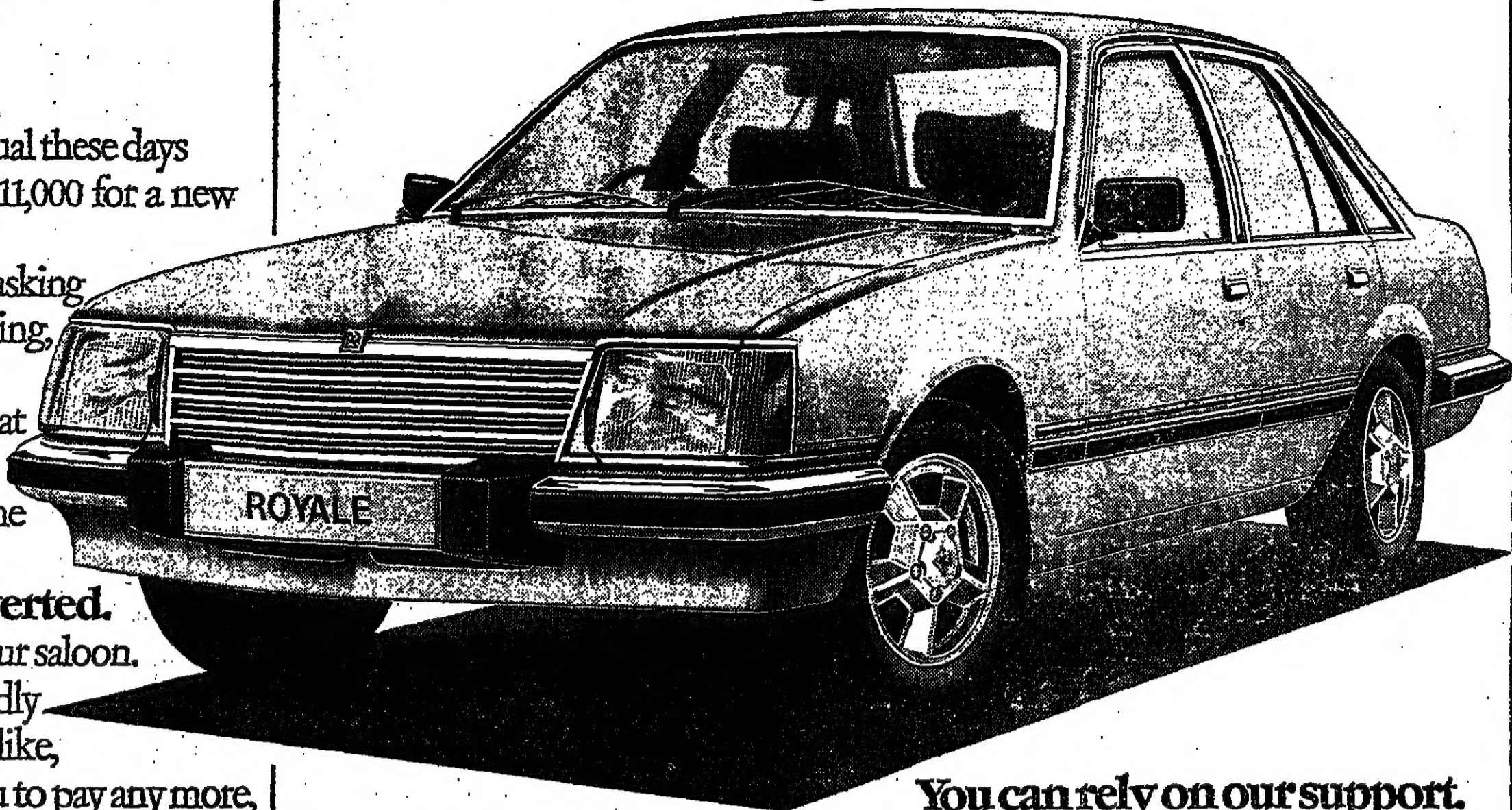
The engine delivers all you might expect from 6 cylinders. We'll just mention a top speed of 115 mph.*

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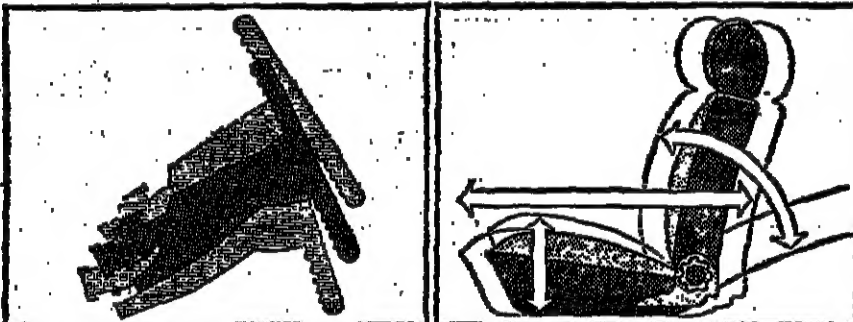
You'll feel good inside.

The interior appointments could well be termed 'by appointment'. The doors lock centrally, the sun roof is steel and the radio/stereo cassette player has not two speakers but three.

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You can see that the Royale has a beautifully aerodynamic shape.

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VAUXHALL
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HOME NEWS

Action resumed by prison officers after court ruling

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison officers at Ashford Remand Centre have resumed industrial action after a High Court judge ruled in favour of their association. Because of the court decision officers at Gloucester have decided not to return to normal working.

Mr Justice Brown-Wilkinson ruled on Friday that the national executive of the Prison Officers' Association had acted unlawfully in instructing members to suspend industrial action. He ordered the union leaders to reinstate the action, but suspended the order for six weeks so that the special conference which had called for the action could be reconvened.

It is understood that the association sent out a circular yesterday saying that a delegate conference would be held soon but did not give a date or venue. The circular is thought to have recommended that the suspension of industrial action should be continued pending further information from the national executive. Eleven branches are still engaged in some form of action over the dispute, which was about payment for meal breaks.

The Home Office has refused

to go to arbitration over the claim for payments for meal breaks taken during extra duties. Instead Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, sees a new duty system as the solution to the dispute.

Mr Whitelaw acted yesterday to cur the prison population by about three hundred, by laying before Parliament an order allowing remission for good behaviour to anyone sentenced for more than five years and up to one month. The present qualifying period of more than one month is arbitrary.

He thinks it is right in principle to apply remission to as many prisoners as possible. The benefit will be felt most at crowded local establishments where short-term prisoners are normally held. The order will come into effect on February 23.

Prison population figures given yesterday showed an increase again after a big fall during the dispute. The January 19 total was 40,278, including those held in emergency accommodation. That had increased to 41,277 yesterday.

But in spite of the confusion following the court case people are still being moved from emergency accommodation to prison.

Association loses role as provider for homeless

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Housing Corporation announced yesterday that it is ending the role of the Family Housing Association as a provider of accommodation for the homeless and is making it solely responsible for paying off an accumulated deficit of £925,000.

The decision will mean that about 100 properties which could have provided 200 homes will be sold, about ten staff will be made redundant immediately, and the association will become a housing maintenance and management body.

The decision also means that the main recommendation of a special manager, appointed at the corporation's insistence last September, has been rejected. The special manager recommended that the association should be allowed to continue with a smaller development programme, producing 90 units a year compared with the average of 400 to 500 a year until 1978.

Although the special manager's report did not allocate blame for the association's

financial difficulties, it did point out that the Department of the Environment had powers to waive the repayment of grants when properties were sold. That hint has not been taken up by the corporation's board.

The association's financial difficulties arose mainly from a moratorium imposed in 1976 on its building programme by the corporation and the Department of the Environment, which the association was faced with legal action because a proposal to buy an hotel fell through. The association was the case on appeal, but the moratorium continued for nine months, and a second one was imposed.

Miss Dorcas Ward, acting director of the association, said yesterday that she was disappointed that no responsibility had been accepted by the corporation or the department for the deficit, which she estimated at £850,000. The association would fight for its share of any deficit financing likely to be paid to other associations who were likely to have similar difficulties because of the Government's housing cuts.

The decision had ended the "cat and mouse" game played for the last three years, and meant the association could plan its future, even though it would be restricted.

Windmill as high as Big Ben for Orkney

By Nicholas Hirst

A windmill, which with its blades vertical will be almost as high as the clock tower of Big Ben, is planned to generate electricity in Orkney in 1983 or 1984.

The £5.6m project is the most ambitious renewable energy scheme yet to be given official support. All but £1m of the cost of the "aerogenerator" will be met by the Department of Energy, with the rest being provided by the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board.

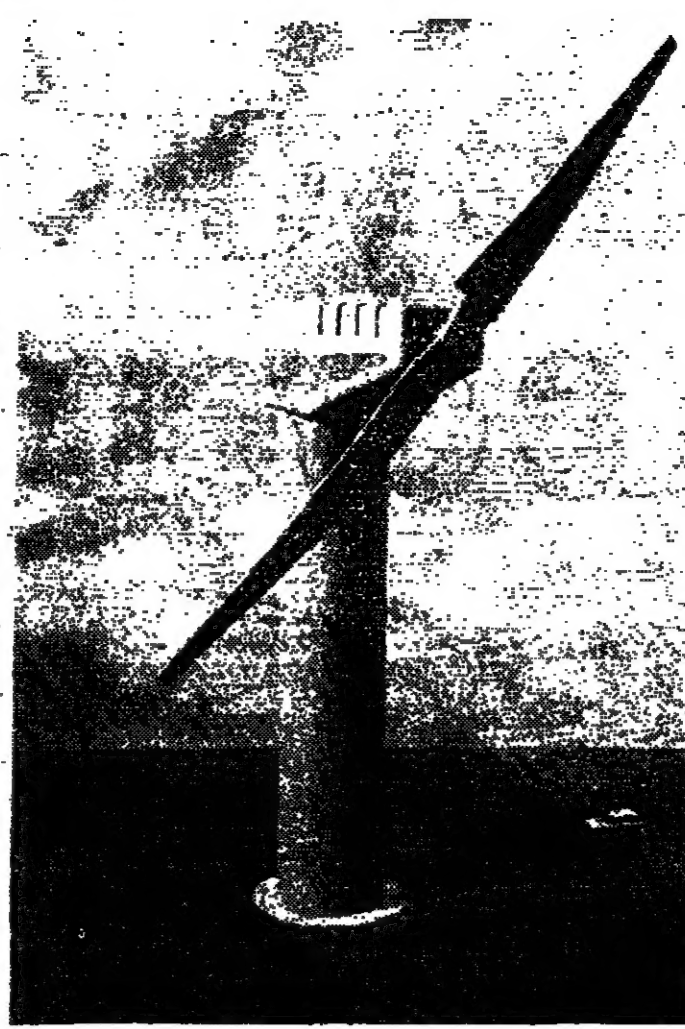
If successful, the project could go a long way to supplying electricity to the outlying Scottish islands, which, at the moment, are largely supplied by expensive diesel-driven generators.

The hydro board tried last year to impose a fuel surcharge on the islanders but was forced to withdraw it in the face of angry protests. As a result, a loss of about £8m is expected on providing electricity to Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles this year.

Working at its full capacity of three megawatts, the aerogenerator will provide sufficient energy for 1,000 of the 8,000 domestic consumers, which will be fed into the island's grid.

Planning consents for the project are required from the Secretary of State for Scotland and Orkney District Council before site work, expected to start in the spring of 1983, can begin, but no difficulties are expected.

A site has been chosen at Bargar Hill, two miles from the coast, to take best advantage of



A model of the 198ft windmill planned for Orkney.

sea winds. It is remote from habitation.

A smaller machine with a 250 kilowatt capacity is planned to begin operation in October this year to provide experience for the running of the larger generator. Site work for the smaller machine, a twelfth the size of the commercial aerogenerator, is to begin in August.

The big machine needs winds of between 16 and 60 mph to function. Those speeds are common in Orkney.

The hydro board has been experimenting with wind power since the 1950s and started operating a 22 kilowatt generator on South Ronaldsay to serve a farm in December. That is 40ft high with 15ft blades.

Ulster violence shown in decline

From a Staff Reporter

A continued decline in the level of terrorist violence in Northern Ireland over the last year, especially in bombing and shooting incidents, is shown in figures issued yesterday.

However, they do not include the IRA's coordinated bombing campaign on Monday night when six bombs exploded across the province. There are fears that it was the start of a campaign aimed specifically at business property.

In Portadown, Co Armagh, many shops, offices and some homes were badly damaged by a 400lb car bomb.

The new figures released by the Northern Ireland Office show that shooting incidents declined to 139 in the last three months of 1980, compared with 180 in the first three months

of the year. Explosions declined from 108 in January to March to 30 in the last quarter.

Ten civilians died, five of them in sectarian and factional assassinations in the last quarter.

Four Army and Ulster Defence Regiment servicemen died between October and December compared with seven at the start of the year and there were no deaths among members of the RUC or its reserve. Throughout the rest of the year there had been nine such deaths.

Between October and December 115 people were charged with serious "security type offences", eight of them with murder. The figures for the first three months of the year were 166 and 26 respectively.

She was named by police as Geraldine McSorley, a nurse aged 23, of Newtown Stewart.

Paisley yesterday called on Northern Ireland's unionist parties to bury their differences to fight a common campaign against what he called "the intended sell-out" of Ulster to Dublin by the British Government.

Housing aid: The Nationwide Building Society is to provide £5m for mortgages and improvements in five housing action areas of Belfast, where about 16,000 homes need improvements.

Death after hoax: A woman was killed when an Army bomb squad going to what turned out to be a hoax bomb call early yesterday was in collision with a car outside Strabane, Co Tyrone (the Press Association reports).

She was named by police as Geraldine McSorley, a nurse aged 23, of Newtown Stewart.

Paisley appeal: The Rev Ian

GLC to increase next year's rate by 17.6%

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Greater London Council is to increase its rate for the coming year by 17.6 per cent, a rise of 3.7p on the present rate of 21.7p, and well above the Government's guidelines on inflation.

Together with the likely increase in the Inner London Education Authority rate precept of 46 per cent, the loss by London authorities of government grant and the expressed intentions of some Labour councils not to reduce their services, this latest indication from the GLC means that rate increases in the London area will be very high, ranging from 20 to 70 per cent.

Mr Richard Brew, deputy leader of the GLC, announcing the proposed increase yesterday, said that the budget was being increased by only 7 per cent, "significantly lower than the current rate of inflation."

The Government allowed in the rate support grant for the year beginning in April an inflation of 6 per cent for pay and 11 per cent for prices, which together make about 7 per cent.

The GLC has been unable to confine its increase to that figure. A further 9 per cent was necessary because some of the council's expenditure last year was met from accumulated balances which are not available this year, and the remaining 2 per cent is caused by the loss of rate support grant.

The increase is considerably larger than the Conservative administration wanted, particularly as the GLC election takes place in May. Mr Brew emphasized that over the four years of its control, the council's

average annual rate rise had been kept to a single figure. We are continuing our policy of taking the country's need to reduce public expenditure. Bearing in mind the extremely difficult financial times for local government and its ratepayers, we have made every attempt to keep the rate increase to an absolute minimum," he stated.

London has suffered a loss of government grant, which has been transferred to areas outside the main conurbations. The GLC has been particularly badly affected as well by the 18.8 per cent pay settlement for firemen, because that is a level well above the norm and one-third of the council's staff are firemen.

The announcement of a high GLC precept to go with the 46 per cent ILEA increase means that it will be almost impossible for rate increases in inner London to be lower than 20 per cent. Even Kensington and Chelsea, which aims to follow government guidelines, has given a warning of a big increase. The borough has lost government grant, and Mr Nigel Freeman, leader, predicts in the latest newsletter that the increase will be "very substantial indeed."

In the Labour-controlled boroughs of Lambeth and Camden, where increases will be in the order of 50 per cent or more, ratepayers' groups are gathering strength. In Lambeth supplementary rate bills have been burnt at protest meetings, and in Camden a new group has been launched with the intention of making legal action against the council and encouraging people to withhold part of the rate bills.

IBA chief urges restraint on horror film advertising

By Kenneth Gosling

Commercial for horror films has caused the Independent Broadcasting Authority a few difficulties recently. Lord Thomson of Monifieth, chairman of the IBA, said yesterday.

Speaking at a conference on radio advertising control in London, Lord Thomson said there were a lot of people who enjoyed horror films and the IBA would not wish to stop them being advertised. However, there were many viewers and listeners who did not like them and had no wish to see them.

"Because commercials come up unannounced, random and often repetitive within IBA rules, and by reason of the very power which makes them valuable to the advertiser, the commercials should be produced with due regard to the sensitivities of the vast majority of our audience, rather like a U trailer promoting an X certified film."

Lord Thomson said there were those who tried to beat the system; the authority would have no hesitation in rejecting commercial ideas and proposals that tried to mislead or that included "distasteful material likely to offend."

Recently, the IBA has received a number of complaints about the advertising of horror films on radio and television, and it has placed a timing restriction on some so that they can "only be shown or heard during the late evening."

Man cut racehorse's tail and mane 'for revenge'

From Our Correspondent

Dougan O'Sullivan, aged 20, a labourer, was given a suspended jail sentence and fined £30 at Clonmel District Court, Co Tipperary, yesterday when he pleaded guilty to cutting the tail and mane of the horse of Storm Bird, the favourite for the Two Thousand Guineas and the Epsom Derby. The animal was not injured.

The incident occurred at the temporary stables of Vincent O'Brien, a leading trainer, last week.

Mr O'Sullivan said he had attacked the horse because he had a hatred and a grudge against the trainer. Describing

Storm Bird as the best horse in Europe, he said he had wanted to injure it but to use it as a way of getting revenge on Mr O'Brien.

Mr O'Sullivan said he was not satisfied with the trainer's treatment of his mother, brother and himself since his father, who had worked with Mr O'Brien all his life, died.

Witnesses told the court that there was no physical injury to the animal. The tail was a foot shorter than it should be and the mane was docked.

Government to back £55m Laker purchase

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Although a consortium of British and foreign banks is providing £55m for Sir Freddie Laker, chairman of Laker Airways, to buy three Boeing A300 airbuses, the deal is being backed by the British Government, a parliamentary answer disclosed yesterday.

British Airways, which is a 20 per cent partner in the consortium developing the A300 and the smaller A310, has undertaken to provide interest rate support to the banks financing the Laker deal and will in turn be reimbursed by the Government.

That backing will enable Laker Airways to pay for the duration of the loan a fixed interest rate broadly equivalent to that which would have been paid for competitive borrowing from the United States, where the interest rate would have been supported by the United States Government.

The Department of Industry said last night: "The extent of the British taxpayer's commitment will depend on the movement of the interest rate over the whole period of the deal."

The action was being taken under the terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 1949.

Similar interest support arrangements were announced in the Commons in April last year for the purchase by British Overseas Airways, another independent airline, based at Gatwick airport, of six A310s.

Such arrangements are agreed between the partner governments within the Airbus consortium, led by France and West Germany, and are designed to fend off the competition from the aerospace industry in the United States.

The finance for the Laker purchase of three A300s was arranged by Midland Bank International. It came through banks in Britain, France, West Germany, Austria, the United States and Canada, and was over-subscribed.

"Sus" Bill to be examined by MPs' committee

By Our Political Correspondent

For the first time a House of Commons committee charged with the duty of examining the detail of a government Bill will hear evidence from outside witnesses at three sessions before the Bill proceeds to the normal committee stage.

The committee set up to examine the Criminal Attempts Bill, which deals with a revision of the "sus" laws, will hear evidence from a government minister, a High Court judge and others on the proposals in the Bill.

Three sessions on February 3, 4 and 5 will be devoted to hearing evidence, the witnesses being subject to questions.

Sir Graham Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, a solicitor and a former minister for local government, is chairman of the committee. The minister invited to give evidence is Mr Patrick Mayhew, QC, Minister of State at the Home Office.

Sex bias in tax plans is criticized

Removal of sex discrimination from the income tax system could be deferred indefinitely if proposals contained in the Government's recent consultative document on the taxation of husband and wife are accepted, Lady Lockwood, the chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said yesterday.

She complained that the document failed to explain clearly why the system needed reform and that it did not adequately set out or examine the various options for change.

The present system discriminated between men and women on grounds of sex and marital status and was based on an outdated view of the role of women, Lady Lockwood said.

The Government's preferred proposal, which involves giving married couples the option of being taxed independently but does not do away with the principle of aggregating husband's and wife's incomes, did not overcome the fundamentally objectionable features of the present system.

The Equal Opportunities Commission believed that the individual should be the basic unit for tax purposes. The consultative document's treatment of that issue was inadequate and often arbitrary, Lady Lockwood said.

She was speaking at a conference sponsored by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Mr Nicholas Morris, of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, another speaker at the conference, presented calculations to show that abolition of the married man's allowance, so that each earner receives a single person's allowance, would raise £2,600m in extra revenue. That would enable child benefit to be raised to £8.50 a week from its present £4.75.

Mr Benn says Labour should lead the movement for homosexual equality

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Wedgwood Benn yesterday said that the Labour movement to play a leading part in the campaign to achieve homosexual equality.

Speaking at a meeting in the House of Commons to launch a new booklet from the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCLC), he said that the Labour Party's National Executive Committee would soon be issuing a comprehensive policy document on homosexual rights.

Mr Benn, Labour MP for Bristol, South-East, who wrote the foreword to the booklet, *Gay Workers: Trade Unions and the Law*, said that homosexual people, like blacks and women, were particularly vulnerable to discrimination. "People who have 'come out' in the last

two or three years by their own action make themselves vulnerable in an atmosphere of fear and suspicion caused by rising unemployment," he said.

He explained that he had taken up the issue because he was a great believer in civil liberties and in the rights of people to live their own lives in their own way. When the case of Mr John Saunders, who was dismissed for being homosexual, was reported, he had rung the NCLC in anger, Mr Benn said.

Mr Saunders's case has become a cause célèbre among homosexuals and is described in some detail in the pamphlet. He was dismissed from his job as a maintenance worker by the Scottish Camps Association when it was learnt he was homosexual.

In brief

Boxer's brother fined £1,400

Michael Martin Conche, aged 22, brother of John Conche, the boxer, was fined £1,400 and ordered to pay £4,000 compensation at Marlborough Street magistrates' court London yesterday after admitting stealing a cheque card belonging to Mr V. Genovese and using the same man's American Express card to obtain £1,404 of jewellery by deception in January last year. He lives at Elm Park Road, Chelsea.

His flatmate, Timothy Hawkins, aged 25, a hairdresser, admitted offences of deception and was fined £220 and ordered to pay £240 compensation to National Westminster Bank.

Parcel collection halted by strike

No parcels will be collected until further notice in Greater Manchester because of an unofficial strike by 1,300 postal workers, the Post Office said yesterday. Letters and packets are not affected by the strike.

Yachtswoman cleared

Mrs Rosie Swale, yachtswoman and author, was cleared yesterday of indecent exposure in a London court.

Mrs Swale, aged 31, told magistrates at Bow Street that she was researching a novel based on prostitution and needed to interview men for background material.

Union decision

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' executive yesterday decided not to appeal against the High Court decision that allowed Mr Jack McPherson Quinn, a Lambeth council labour Party conference as a member of the union's delegation.

Club can stay open

Kensington and Chelsea Council has failed in its attempt to close The Garden, a night club that opened in January, 1979, without planning permission. Mr Michael Hesehine, Secretary of State for the Environment, overruled the council after a public inquiry.

No action on steel leak

The Director of Public Prosecutions has decided that no further action should be taken over confidential papers that were alleged to have been taken from the British Steel Corporation at Workington.

Boy on harm charge

A boy aged 13 was remanded on bail until February 26 at Bracknell Juvenile Court, Berkshire, yesterday accused of grievous bodily harm after an incident on Monday in which a teacher was stabbed in her classroom.

Bridge fall girl saved

A girl aged 13 who fell on to the parapet of a footbridge over a railway line at Vauxhall Hill, Greenwich, London, yesterday, was pulled to safety by Police Constable John Brown.

Canal rescue by PC

Police Constable David Lawrence rescued a man from the South Yorkshire Canal in Rotherham yesterday after jumping into the water and holding the man up until help arrived.

Girl is awarded £240,000 after hospital blunder

Tracy Clark, aged 16, who is paralysed by spinal injuries, won a £240,000 damages award in the High Court, London, yesterday. She is the victim of a hospital blunder four years ago and is confined to a wheelchair.

Miss Clark, of Cowper Avenue, Tilbury, Essex, was awarded the damages against Essex Health Authority, who admitted liability for her injuries.

She had a spinal operation at Basildon Hospital in January, 1977. "Afterwards she was not properly or effectively immobilized and she sat up in bed," said Mr Michael Morland QC, her counsel. "This caused damage to the spinal cord and as a result she is paraplegic from the lower chest down."

The agreed damages include compensation for loss of educational and career prospects and "loss of companionship of people of her own age," Mr Morland said. The award would also allow her to buy a car and a suitable bungalow and would provide future nursing care.

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HOME NEWS

Legal action sought in Rampton man's case

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, has been asked to take legal action against a local authority which is refusing to accept a patient from Rampton special hospital who is ready for release to a hostel.

MIND, the mental health charity, has written to the minister urging him to use his legal powers to force Kent County Council to accept a man who had been waiting three years to leave the high security hospital in Nottinghamshire.

There is complete agreement among the man's doctors and social workers, the mental health review tribunal and successive Home Secretaries that the patient should not be in any hospital, Mr Larry Gostin, legal director of MIND, says.

Mr Jenkin's attention is drawn to the report by the Boynton committee into the management of Rampton, published last November, which referred to the "scandal" of patients fit for transfer who could not leave the hospital.

MIND considers the council is breaking the law because it says it has a statutory duty to provide accommodation for such people. The council strongly denies that and says Islington Borough Council, where the man came from, has legal obligations towards him.

Islington has agreed to pay for the man, who wishes to remain anonymous, to be housed in Kent because he wishes to be there, near a relation. Kent County Council said yesterday that it had tried to help the man, but had been unable to do so because three local psychiatric hospitals refused to take him and it had been decided he should not go to a hostel in Ashford.

The council said it was agreed that the man would be transferred to a hospital rather than a hostel, where he would receive the necessary support. Part of the reason for him being rejected for the hostel was that the staff there had had considerable management difficulties with another former special hospital patient.

MIND replied that the council was evading responsibility. "The patient has pursued every available lawful procedure that any human being has and has been declared fit for release," Mr Gostin said. "Yet he is still in a maximum security hospital."

The difficulty patients have in being transferred from special hospitals to places in the community is well known and widespread, and the Government is increasingly realising that something should be done about it.

Thames TV fails to get ban on film lifted

Thames Television failed in the Court of Appeal yesterday in its attempt to have lifted an injunction banning it from screening a documentary film about Primodos, the pregnancy testing drug at the centre of pending damages claims.

By a majority, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, dissenting, the court dismissed Thames TV's appeal from the ban granted last August on screening the film *The Primodos Affair*. The injunction was in favour of Schering Chemicals Ltd, the British subsidiary of a West German company.

It is contesting two damages claims by parents who say their children were born with malformations as a result of their mothers taking Primodos, which was withdrawn in 1978. Schering was awarded two-thirds of the costs.

Law Report, page 9

Government proposal for taking colleges from council control likely to receive mixed response

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent
Some local authorities will protest noisily over government plans to remove polytechnics and higher education colleges from local authority control, but many will be secretly relieved to have the financial burden lifted, and most will come to accept with resignation the radical change.

That is the view of most local authority leaders and education officials consulted on the plans.

The Department of Education and Science has drawn up outline proposals approved by Mr Rhodes Boyson, the minister with responsibility for higher education, which are circulating in Whitehall as an internal consultative document.

The proposals involve a new semi-independent, national body along the lines of the University Grants Committee, which would be responsible for allocating government funds to polytechnics and other maintained colleges with a large proportion of higher education students.

At present, all maintained institutions of higher education are financed and managed by local authorities. The polytechnics have long pressed for their removal from local authority control.

The Government hopes to have a public consultative document ready by early summer before a White Paper, which would be followed almost certainly by the legislation necessary to set up the new body.

It is likely that the new body would not have direct representation of particular interest groups, but rather it would be made up of eminent people drawn from higher education, industry and local government, but appointed in a personal capacity.

Polytechnics are certain not to have fulfilled their other wish for complete autonomy; their degree courses will still have to be approved by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), but they are likely to be given greater control over budgets, subject to any guidance or directions given by the new national body.

The Government would like the new body to have some say over higher education courses in the maintained sector, but how that would be achieved remains to be seen.

Mr Boyson is known to want some regional dimension in

the planning of maintained higher education, but again the details are still to be worked out. It is possible that the existing regional advisory councils could be used for that purpose.

Another unanswered question is: Which colleges should be included under the new national body and which left to local authority control? There are about 100 polytechnics and colleges with 60 per cent or more of their work in higher education. Should they all be included?

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Conservative leader of Kingston council and the chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities last year, has described the plans as "a grab for power by central government". She warned heads of maintained colleges at a conference last week that the scheme could force the closure of some colleges and create big changes in others.

That kind of public outcry is expected. In private, some even argue that it would be better for higher education to be nationally administered. The Labour-controlled metropolitan authorities with polytechnics in their area are expected to protest loudly.

Mr Carlisle said at an Open University press conference in London that 45,000 students have graduated from that university since it began in 1971. One in 16 of all new graduates in Britain come from that university.

Some people looked down on the university's degrees, but they were misguided, he said. For as well as saying as much about a person's academic status as any other degree, it said a great deal more about his character, initiative and perseverance, qualities that employers would do well to bear in mind.

Mr Carlisle said that his secretary was an Open University graduate, so he had some idea of the effort it took to complete such a degree. Most students had to overcome the pressures and practical difficulties involved in "distance" learning while at the same time holding down full-time jobs or looking after their homes.

On the Government's decision to increase the university's undergraduate course fees next year by nearly half to £98, Mr Carlisle said that, at a time when other sectors of education had to make savings, the students should be asked to make an increased contribution towards the cost.

The Government grant to the university this year was £45m and the taxpayer subsidised 90 per cent of the cost of a student's course. The fee increase would make that about 87 per cent.

A survey published yesterday shows that an increasing proportion of new Open University graduates had less than normal university entrance requirements when they started their degrees; this applied to a quarter of this year's graduates, and 4 per cent had started with no formal examination qualifications at all.

Of the students who started in 1971, 56 per cent have completed their degrees.

BBC and Equity agree on pay

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC yesterday gave a guarantee to maintain employment levels for 1981-82 when agreement was announced with Equity, the actors' union, on new pay rates for television appearances.

The union accepted the BBC's fourth offer, a 10 per cent increase in the overall artists' budget from February 7 to December 31, with a new agreement from January 1, 1982. The 15 per cent increase was previously to have run until February 1, 1982. The employment guarantee was regarded

as of great importance by Equity.

The BBC reiterated its intention if its financial position improves, to narrow the gap in artists' fees paid by it and the independent television companies.

The gap was greater than it would like, it said. Mr Ailsa Milne, the managing director of BBC Television, said that the economies would be sought to pay for the £1.3m the agreement would cost. The increase averages 12.8 per cent over the year.

Mr Peter Plowman, general secretary of Equity, said: "We

are extremely hopeful that this represents a very real change in the pattern of negotiations over recent years."

"We think the BBC are now convinced, for the first time and at a higher level, that they have neglected the place of the performer in their overall operation."

When the full award is implemented, the basic weekly fee will rise from £125 to £141. Independent television's basic figure is £215.

The BBC had formerly said that any increase over 10 per cent would mean automatic loss of employment. Yesterday's agreement cancels that.



New graduates: Lieutenant Roland Playford, RM; Mr Graham Franklin, fishmonger; and WPC Angela Frederick.

Mandatory grants to Open University students rejected

By Our Education Correspondent

High praise for students and staff at the Open University came from Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday, but he ruled out any chance in the immediate future of introducing mandatory grants for the students.

Mr Carlisle said at an Open University press conference in London that 45,000 students have graduated from that university since it began in 1971. One in 16 of all new graduates in Britain come from that university.

Some people looked down on the university's degrees, but they were misguided, he said. For as well as saying as much about a person's academic status as any other degree, it said a great deal more about his character, initiative and perseverance, qualities that employers would do well to bear in mind.

Mr Carlisle said that his secretary was an Open University graduate, so he had some idea of the effort it took to complete such a degree. Most students had to overcome the pressures and practical difficulties involved in "distance" learning while at the same time holding down full-time jobs or looking after their homes.

On the Government's decision to increase the university's undergraduate course fees next year by nearly half to £98, Mr Carlisle said that, at a time when other sectors of education had to make savings, the students should be asked to make an increased contribution towards the cost.

The Government grant to the university this year was £45m and the taxpayer subsidised 90 per cent of the cost of a student's course. The fee increase would make that about 87 per cent.

A survey published yesterday shows that an increasing proportion of new Open University graduates had less than normal university entrance requirements when they started their degrees; this applied to a quarter of this year's graduates, and 4 per cent had started with no formal examination qualifications at all.

Of the students who started in 1971, 56 per cent have completed their degrees.

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Rise in number of abortions

In 1979, 120,611 legal abortions were performed on women normally living in England and Wales, an increase of about 8,600 over 1978.

More than half the women involved were single. A total of 3,534 girls under 16 had abortions, against 3,298 in 1978.

Court clears man who says he was framed

A man who claimed that the police planted a small amount of cannabis on him during a betting shop raid was cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday of possessing the drug.

Lancelles Gordon, aged 37, unemployed, of Pynchley Road, East Dulwich, London, who was fined £100 at the Central Criminal Court on January 11,

1979, had his conviction quashed and sentence set aside.

Mr Justice Hodgson said Mr Gordon had not raised the defence that he "had" been framed until his trial, but it was his common law right to remain silent.

Judge Grieve had told the jury that they could draw any adverse inference from Mr

Gordon's non-protestation of innocence.

Mr Justice Hodgson added: "This was the plainest possible invitation to the jury to take as indicative of guilt the fact that this appellant had exercised his common law right of silence." But for the Judge's words Mr Gordon might have been acquitted.

MP says jobless men were told to advertise

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent
A Labour MP is protesting that pressure is being put on unemployed family men to advertise themselves as available for work as a condition of keeping their right to supplementary benefits.

Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead, disclosed today that three constituents were interviewed in a locked room, and told they would lose their benefits unless they agreed to pay to advertise their availability.

Mr Field has written to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, pointing out that his intervention has restored the men's benefit, and asking how he can rebut the charge that the Government's anti-fraud drive is being used to deny honest claimants benefits to which they are entitled.

In his letter, Mr Field says that the three men have been unemployed for a considerable time, which is not surprising in view of the high unemployment in Birkenhead. All are responsible for young children.

They told him that they felt they had been interrogated, rather than interviewed, and they were told that benefit would be stopped. They said they were nervous, "not to say terrified" during the interview. They were told their right to benefit might continue for a short time if they signed a

letter, of which they were not allowed a copy.

"The gist of the letters was that they would spend part of their weekly benefit in advertising either in the local paper or in having bills printed to be distributed on a house to house basis advertising the fact that they were looking for work," Mr Field wrote.

He said yesterday that supplementary benefits were recognised to be the minimum subsistence level and were not high enough to allow for advertising costs. It was the task of the Department of Employment to find work but the local job-centre had told him it had not been approached by the local social security office for information about jobs that could be used in such interviews.

"This is a vicious move that illustrates a deeper problem: the widening gap between the Department of Health and Social Security, who pay benefits, and the Department of Employment, who attempt to find work."

Mr Field has asked Mr Jenkin to give him copies of the letters signed by his constituents, and for his response to important policy considerations raised by the cases. He is asking whether the interviews were normal procedure or part of the anti-fraud drive for which the Government has set a target of saving £50m a year.

Mrs Castle deplores small percentage of woman members of Parliament

By Frances Gibb

Britain has the lowest percentage of women in parliament of any of the European countries, Mrs Barbara Castle, leader of the British Labour Group in the European Parliament, told a conference in London yesterday.

"History has given us the suffragettes; the forgers of freedom for our people, but only 3 per cent of our Parliament is made up of women," she told a conference on "Equal Rights under Attack" organized by the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff.

By comparison, Denmark had 23.5 per cent; The Netherlands 14.7 per cent; Luxembourg 13.6 per cent; Belgium 11.8 per cent; Italy 9.3 per cent; Germany 8 per cent; Ireland 7.1 per cent and France 4.3 per cent. "In Britain we cannot hold up our heads over that," she said.

But Mrs Castle told the

conference, attended by about 40 delegates, that Britain led Europe in the use of its legislation for sex equality. Implementation of the Equal Pay Act, 1975 had been more effective in Britain than anywhere else in the European Community.

The ad hoc committee on women's rights of the European Parliament had just published a report, which showed that complaints against pay discrimination in other member states had been almost non-existent. "But in the United Kingdom they have been spectacular."

"In Luxembourg and Denmark, the report points out, there has been no recourse to the courts over equal pay. In Denmark and West Germany, there is no administrative supervision of the equal pay laws by the authorities. In Italy last year only 10 cases of pay discrimination were taken through the courts."

The inquest was told that Mrs Fryer, aged 57, bought the bird seven years ago and began feeling ill two years later. She had chest pains.

Doctors were unable to diagnose her illness until 12 months ago, by which time it was too late. She was admitted to hospital a week ago and died a day later.

Dr Elspeth Alstead, medical registrar, told the coroner the cause of death was respiratory failure caused by budgerigar disease.

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Dr Elspeth Alstead, medical registrar, told the coroner the cause of death was respiratory failure caused by budgerigar disease.

In the United Kingdom, Mrs Castle said, the full implementation of the Act was followed by a flood of applications to tribunals. The total of 1,742 had now decreased to 343 because a number of test cases had been settled but that figure was still way ahead of elsewhere.

The trade unions had a vital role to play in making sex equality a reality, Mrs Castle said. "There is still a long way to go. There are still far too few women in trade unions and the unions are not likely to recruit them as long as they present an almost exclusively male front in their top jobs and in their conferences."

Trade unions should use their position in the Labour Party to get more women into Parliament, she said. "Fusing laws was only the first stage. It is up to women to implement them, improve them and change attitudes. And it is up to the trade unions to give women that opportunity."

The coroner said any budgerigar owner who suffered symptoms similar to Mrs Fryer's would be advised to get rid of the bird and seek immediate medical help.

The coroner recorded a verdict of death from natural causes.

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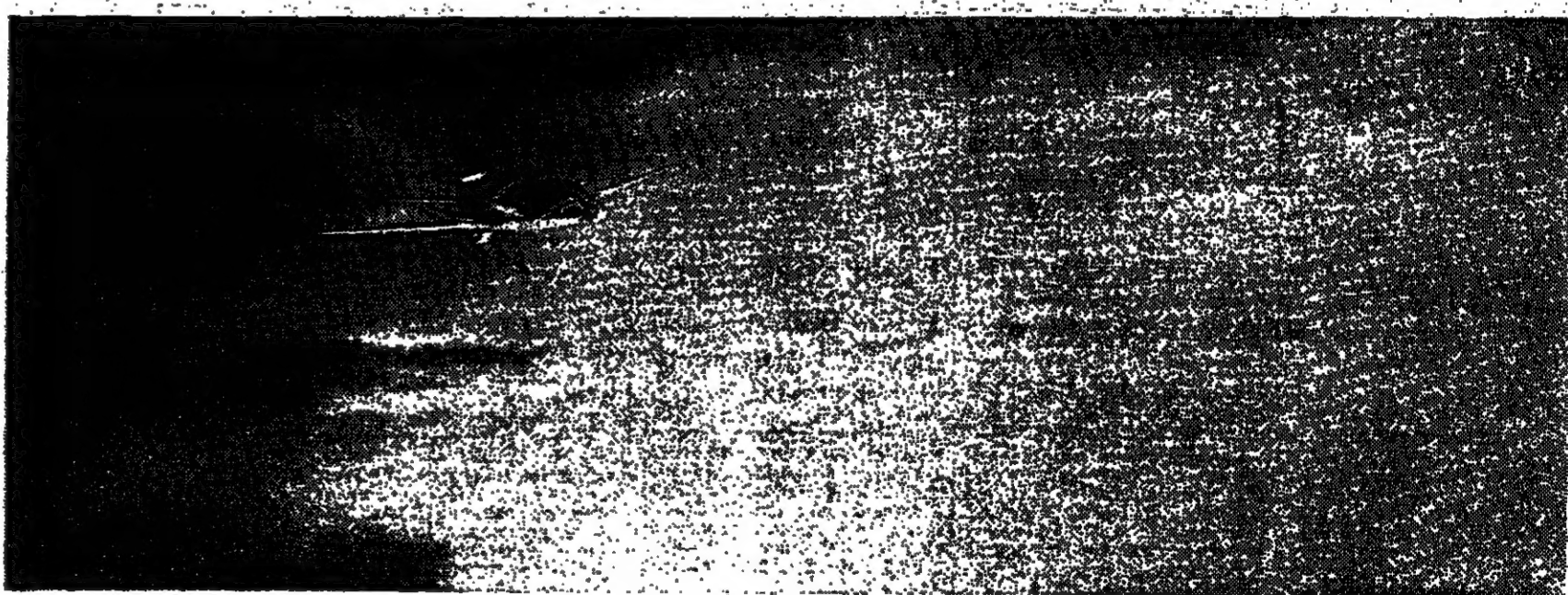
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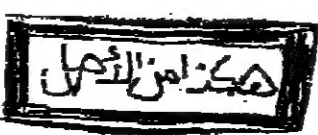
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HOME NEWS

BMA aims to improve city health care by incentive payments

By Nicholas Timmins

The British Medical Association has proposed a series of incentive payments to doctors, nurses and health visitors in inner cities and other areas with poor family doctor services to try to stem the falling quality of such care.

The proposals are aimed at encouraging family doctors in such areas to retire earlier, and at increasing their income to meet the higher costs.

They would discourage general practitioners from running lists of only 1,000 patients, which allows the doctor to claim most of the basic National Health Service allowances and to earn extra income from private or other work outside the health service. They would also encourage doctors from maximizing their income by taking on so many patients that they cannot provide proper care.

The proposals have gone to the Family Health Care Study Group, which is due to report to the Department of Health later this year, and they have been sympathetically received by some of its members.

There has been increasing concern about the standard of care in some inner city areas. A report prepared by the Royal College of General Practitioners has shown that inner London has on average more doctors with small lists of patients, more with very large lists, more aged over 70 and more working single-handed than in the rest of the country.

In Kensington, Chelsea and

Westminster, one of the worst areas, one general practitioner in eight is aged over 70, and one in six has a list of fewer than 1,000 patients.

Figures for 1977 show that on average England and Wales have fewer than one general practitioner in 20 aged over 65, and fewer than one in 50 have lists of less than 1,000 patients.

In Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster, more than three doctors in a hundred had lists of more than 3,500 patients in 1977, compared with fewer than two in a hundred in the rest of the country, where the average list is about 2,200.

The British Medical Association said yesterday that the difficulties of running good family doctor services included a very mobile population, high turnover of nursing staff and high costs.

The association said also that a doctor might be refused permission to start a practice in inner London because the proportion of general practitioners to population is high.

The BMA's proposals would allow doctors working in underprivileged areas a year's credit towards retirement for every five years worked, so that a doctor who worked there throughout his career could retire at 55. Extra payments would be made when a new patient registered, and for night visits. In addition, a higher annual capitation fee would be paid for each patient, but only for doctors with lists of between 1,500 and 2,500 patients.

£540,000 for research into medical inequalities

From John Chazres

Manchester

A grant of £540,000 has been made by the Department of Health and Social Security to the department of general practice at Manchester University for research into inequalities of medical care in underprivileged inner city areas.

Concern about such inequalities was expressed in the 1980 royal commission report on the National Health Service and by the DHSS working group chaired by Professor Sir Douglas Black, former professor of medicine at Manchester University and chief scientist to the department.

The university said yesterday that despite the concern, there was little detailed in-

formation about the extent and nature of the variations in medical services in the inner cities compared with other areas.

The grant will support a DHSS research unit directed by Professor David Metcalfe, professor of general practice, initially for six years. It will concentrate at first on the relatively underprivileged areas of Manchester and Salford.

More than 600 general practitioners will be interviewed about aspects of health that confront them in their surgeries and on visits, and about their own practices and attitudes. The accessibility and acceptability of doctors, community nurses, health visitors and social workers will also be considered.

Child mortality, page 9

Man denies he intended to harm stepson

A man alleged to have ill-treated his stepson, aged two-and-a-half, by ducking him in a swimming pool, denied at a Leeds Crown Court yesterday that he had any intention of harming the boy.

Steven James Greenwood said the boy "went under the water two, possibly three, times at the most, but I had no intention of harming him in any shape or form."

Mr Greenwood, aged 28, a bus driver, of Town Street, Stanningley, Leeds, has pleaded not guilty to wilfully ill-treating or exposing Terence Benjamin Ryan, a 2½-year-old, to cause him unnecessary suffering or injury to health.

The trial continues today.

Money too hot for thieves

Thieves worked through the night to open a safe, but when they eventually burnt off its side at offices of agricultural engineers in Banbury, they found only charred banknotes and cheques.

The owner said the heat from the thieves' cutting equipment set fire to the contents of about £150 in notes and cheques.

Customs seeking 2,000 who overpaid duty

The Customs and Excise department is trying to trace two thousand people who have been overcharged duty on cars imported into Britain.

The errors emerged during an investigation by the Ombudsman into the case of a Briton returning to this country who was given wrong information by a Customs officer as to when he could resell his imported car without paying duty and value-added tax.

When he came to sell his car he was faced with an unexpected bill of £213 for customs charges but during the Ombudsman's inquiry into the case an error in assessing charges was found.

Charges can be assessed in two ways: on the value of the car at the time of import and the rates of duty and tax in force at that time; or the value of the car when it is sold and the rates in force then.

Customs charge whichever is the lower and in recent years that has invariably been the second option; but when VAT went up from 8 to 15 per cent in 1979 it made the first option more favourable.

Customs say 2,000 people have been overcharged by more than £5.

WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Left wing fights against pay restraint programme

Belgian Socialist leader resigns

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Jan 27

Against a background of deepening economic crisis and mounting social unrest, the Belgian Government has been dealt a severe blow by the announcement that the leader of one of the two main parties in the coalition is to resign.

Mr André Cools, president of the Socialist Party, which governs in partnership with the Christian Democrats, disclosed last night that he will not be standing for reelection at his party's congress next month.

The decision comes after a period of increasing tension between Mr Cools and left-wing members of his party and the FGTB, the socialist-affiliated trade union organization, over his support for the Government's economic recovery plan, which includes a two-year freeze on wage rises.

The last straw for Mr Cools, it appears, was the decision last week of several Socialist MPs to vote against the pay restraint policy.

Mr Cools has been a powerful ally of Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, who is the Flemish Christian Democrat. Even if Mr Cools is replaced, as is thought likely, by Mr Guy Spitaels, the Deputy Prime Minister, who also supports the economic austerity measures, growing dissension within the Socialist Party and trade union estrangement could bring down the coalition.

Steel workers in Liège came out on strike today in protest against a government plan to merge Belgium's biggest steel plant, Sambre-Meuse, with a smaller one, owned by a group of 2,000 and 4,000 men out of work. Steel workers in Charleroi are already on strike.

At Verviers and Tubize, also in the economically depressed, French-speaking southern half of the country, groups of textile workers have been on a hunger strike this month because of threatened plant closures.

Other textile workers have been blocking roads and rail links to and from the two towns during certain hours of the day, causing the diversion of

domestic and international traffic.

To add to its troubles, the Government learnt from British Leyland today that the decision to close the company's Belgian assembly plant for Allegros and Minis at Seneffe was "irrevocable". Belgium will now try to persuade a Japanese car manufacturer to take the plant over and save the 2,800 jobs at risk. Anti-British feeling is running high at the plant, which has never had a strike or a work stoppage in 17 years.

Mr Peter Wakefield, the British Ambassador to Belgium, has been summoned to a meeting with Mr Martens tomorrow in what is seen as a last-ditch effort to prevent closure of the plant and save jobs.

The growing industrial unrest follows a demonstration last weekend in Brussels by between 80,000 and 100,000 trade unionists against the Government's economic austerity programme. It is feared that this could signal the end of union passivity in the face of rising unemployment levels, already the highest in Europe.

Bonn's defence budget survives revolt by left

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Jan 27

An attempt by 24 left-wing Social Democrats to have West Germany's defence budget reduced by DM 1,000m (about £210m) has been firmly stifled by the SPD parliamentary party.

Its rejection has removed for the present one of the many problems besetting Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, while yet more have come to a head. The resolution by the 24 left-wingers to switch DM1,000m from the defence budget to development aid has been interpreted here as an indirect move against the Bund NATO decision on medium-range nuclear missiles, which is a fundamental pillar of the Government's defence policy.

As well as the production and stationing of medium-range nuclear missiles, the decision provides for negotiations with the Soviet Union on a balanced reduction of missile numbers.

It was the first time the rest-les SPD had flexed its muscles in the Bundestag. During the last parliament, when Herr Schmidt had a much narrower majority, a smaller group of left-wingers had on occasions forced him to modify legislation and sometimes left the coalition in minority.

Now Herr Schmidt's majority is bigger, but so is the left wing. About a quarter of the 218 deputies are rated as left-wingers.

As it was, the move by the 24 did not get far. After a long discussion last night, the parliamentary party approved a resolution presented by its executive ruling out any cuts in defence spending and calling for efforts to increase development aid.

Thirty-seven deputies voted against the resolution. Their reasons were not given, but it looked as if the group of 24 had attracted some supporters.

Earlier, Herr Schmidt, Herr Willy Brandt, the party chairman, and Herr Hans Apel, the Defence Minister, spoke emphatically against any tampering with the Government's defence policy.

Leading article, page 15

Eight doctors in Paris test case on abortion

From Ian Murray

Paris, Jan 27

Eight doctors have gone on trial in Paris in a test case over the abortion law. Although they are accused of making a fortune by abusing the law, it is clear as the case progresses that it is the law itself—which is introduced in 1975—which is on trial.

The case concerns the events at a clinic called La Pergola in a poor district of northern Paris. The police began their inquiry there after one of the doctors, horrified that an abortion had been carried out on a girl who was five months pregnant, reported the matter. He is himself now one of the eight accused.

The two main offences of which the doctors are accused concern either carrying out abortions or inducing a woman whose pregnancy was further advanced than the tenth week. In the background is evidence that up to 15,000 francs (£1,360) was being charged for an abortion.

In addition to the doctors, five relatives of the girls who had abortions carried out at the clinic, are also charged with offences under the abortion law.

Dr Aimé Marchand, the director of La Pergola, who has spent the past 15 months in prison awaiting trial, told the court that the case had been brought only because the policy of the Government had changed after Mme Simone Veil had left the Health Ministry and M Christian Bonnet, the Minister of the Interior, began to involve himself in the law.

"Mme Veil represented tolerance," M Bonnet represents repression," he said. "They (the Government) have launched a policy for increasing the birth rate and they are carrying out a witch hunt."

Swiss offices bombed

Milan, Jan 27.—A woman was injured when a powerful bomb exploded at the Swiss tourist office here, wrecking cars and destroying the Bureau. A second bomb went off at a Swiss-air office.

W Germans join fray in EEC fishing debate

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Jan 27

The crisis over EEC fisheries policy deepened here today as agriculture ministers failed to break the deadlock reached last December, and became involved in a new dispute.

This was a demand from Herr Josef, Ertl, the West German minister, for swift ratification of an EEC agreement with Canada on reciprocal fishing rights.

It would permit Community vessels to catch 14,500 tonnes of cod and 7,000 tonnes of squid in Canadian waters this year, in return for tariff concessions on Canadian fish exports, mainly to Britain.

The West German deep sea fleet would get the major share of this catch, and their fishermen, who are mounting a protest blockade of Cuxhaven and threatening to extend it to other ports, say they must have access to Canadian waters by the end of February because encroaching winter ice will make fishing impossible after March.

Notification was held up mainly by Britain. Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, told an angry and table-clumping Herr Ertl that there was "no way the British Government could agree to the Canadian deal."

Discussions on the share-out between member states of the fish caught within the EEC's 200-mile limits, and of the related issue of access to coastal waters broke no new ground.

Negotiations on these two questions broke down last month, mainly because of French resistance to Britain's demands for control of the activity of foreign vessels in its coastal waters.

The ministers will meet again in Brussels on February 9 and 10.

East and West fail to agree on disarmament formula

From Richard Wigg

Madrid, Jan 27

The second phase of the European security review conference opened here today, with delegations from the West and the communist countries far apart on the conditions they would accept for holding any kind of disarmament conference within the framework of the Helsinki Act.

Rival proposals for holding such a conference are likely to be the chief business occupying this second phase, with the West favouring a verified disarmament exercise designed to lull western public opinion into a false sense of security, and the East insisting on a more limited strictly to additional confidence-building measures of a verifiable nature in the land military sphere.

At the same time, the Russian delegate went on to emphasize that détente still remained an American objective.

Mr Kampelman is expected in Washington at the weekend to clarify the position of the French proposal from Mr Alexander Haig, the new Secretary of State. Most Western delegations hope, and expect that this first indication of the new Administration's line in an important foreign policy field will draw the United States closer to its NATO allies.

Rhine nations reject plan to clean river

From Our Correspondent

Paris, Jan 27

France has failed to convince the four other countries touched by the Rhine (Switzerland, West Germany, Luxembourg and Holland) to accept the idea of building a salt extraction plant as the best way of cleaning up the river.

Instead a meeting of environmental ministers from all five countries in The Hague agreed yesterday that, failing the prospect to meet excess salt into the ground below Alsace (a solution rejected by France), then the waste from the French potash mines would have to be transported either by barge to the North Sea or else taken away in a special pipeline.



A victim of the Laingsburg floods is reunited with her daughters after being rescued from the Buffels river which carried her and her husband more than 10 miles.

Relief funds set up for flood victims

From Our Own Correspondent

Johannesburg, Jan 27

While rescue workers continued their search for victims of the Laingsburg floods, Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister, announced today that he had set up a special Cabinet committee to assess the damage and losses in the disaster area.

President Marais Viljoen has set up a relief fund for flood victims. Several organizations, including a Cape Town newspaper and a supermarket chain, have also set up their own disaster funds.

An official death toll has still not been announced. However, authoritative sources said it was certain to be more than 100 dead and could be as high as 200, making it South Africa's worst natural disaster.

So far rescue workers, including the police, Army, Air Force and civilians, have found only a few bodies. It is feared that many of the victims may never be found as their bodies are hidden under tons of mud. Some survivors were rescued as far as 13 miles by the raging Buffels river before reaching safety.

Laingsburg was the town most seriously affected by the flood, but other towns and villages in the south-western Cape were also damaged. They include Ladysmith, Worcester, Montagu, Robertson and Swellendam. Millions of pounds worth of damage has been done to crops and livestock.

Mr Nkomo takes on new Cabinet tasks in Salisbury compromise

From Stephen Taylor

Salisbury, Jan 27

The crisis threatening Zimbabwe's coalition Government passed tonight with a statement by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, that a compromise had been reached over the position in the Cabinet of Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the minority Patriotic Front party.

Mr Nkomo, who was demoted in the Cabinet reshuffle two weeks ago and offered the portfolio of Minister of Public Services, had been appointed Minister Without Portfolio with special responsibilities.

The agreement between the two men comes after a week in which they are believed to have met almost daily. The Patriotic Front Central Committee had earlier passed a document to Mr Mugabe, stating anxiety over the fact that the replacement of Mr Nkomo as Minister of Home Affairs effectively deprived the party of any say in matters of security.

Under the agreement Mr Nkomo retains his position on the Cabinet committee on security, and will take on additional responsibilities by assisting Mr Mugabe in his role as Minister of Defence.

Mr Mugabe's statement said: "I will assign to Comrade Nkomo certain specific tasks from time to time which in my judgment require specific handling in the national interest."

The list of new deputy ministers is to be announced on Thursday. American aid: The United States is to provide Zimbabwe with a further \$20m (£8.3m) for education, health and agricultural projects under a new agreement signed here today.

The grant brings to about \$50m the aid provided by Washington to Mr Mugabe's Government since independence last year.

Foreign aid is a vital part of the Government's programme to acquire land owned by white farmers and redistribute it among blacks. Mr Mugabe has said that the amount contributed by Britain for this project has been "far from adequate."

rades participate alongside Zanku in the speedy creation of one united Zimbabwe National Army, and in ensuring the establishment of an imitable relationship between Zanku and Zira and the general public in pursuance of peace and national security."

The statement added: "With immediate effect, the Ministry of Public Service will come under the Prime Minister. Comrade Nkomo will assist me with some of these functions."

Mr Nkomo's main aide, who will take over the portfolio of Transport, Mr Mugabe has suggested in announcing the cabinet reshuffle. Mr Chinamano does not have a seat in the House of Assembly, but may be appointed by the Patriotic Front to fill the seat vacated by Mr Ariston Chinamano, who has been appointed Ambassador to West Germany.

The only remaining element in the compromise formula still to be disclosed is whether Mr Nkomo has successfully negotiated further deputy ministries for his party.

It is believed that in the document sent to Mr Mugabe he sought further posts to the additional one deputy ministry offered by the Prime Minister. The list of new deputy ministers is to be announced on Thursday.

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Boy is shot dead in Copperbelt mine riot

Lusaka, Jan 27.—A 14-year-old boy was shot dead and about 50 people were injured yesterday to quell a riot at a mine township in the Copperbelt, the official press reported today.

The death was the first reported in more than a week of industrial unrest which began in the country's vital copper and cobalt industry and spread to the banking and insurance sector.

The Times of Zambia, run by the ruling United National Independence Party, said shooting took place when police moved in to break up a riot and a bullet hit the boy, who was walking home from school. The shooting angered the crowd, which went through the township stoning vehicles and setting up roadblocks, the paper said.—Reuter

The labour unrest on the Copperbelt poses the most serious challenge to President Kaunda's rule since last October's alleged coup attempt which led to the detention of a number of prominent Zambians (Nicholas Ashford writes from Johannesburg).

The mineworkers, who have been striking in protest at the dismissal from Unip of 17 senior trade union officials, have the power to inflict extensive damage to Zambia's already shaky economy because the copper they produce generates 95 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

Furthermore, the Mineworkers Union of Zambia and the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions, which the expelled officials belonged, are the most powerful organizations in the country not controlled by the party.

The unions and the government have been on a collision course since the 1975 strike, which was looked upon as a general strike would be called and President Kaunda only managed to head this off by threatening to implicate the unions in last year's coup attempt.

Officially, the unions' growing opposition to President Kaunda's Administration is due to the Government's failure to improve pay and conditions of employment. However, there are important political factors as well. In particular, they want to curb the growing power of the party and especially the party's Central Committee, the country's chief policy-making body.

The party's decision to expel the union leaders followed continuous union opposition to a new system of local government introduced last year. The system requires both voters and candidates in local government elections to be party members, and is the main plank in the party's attempts to consolidate the nation's policies under its control.

The unions have argued that the new local government system created a costly new bureaucracy when scarce funds would be better spent on creating jobs and improving social services.

The Government believes that the trades unions' activities have begun taking on political overtones.

Government in Uganda disowns food price order

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Jan 27

An order to market vendors and small traders in Kampala to reduce the prices of their goods drastically, which had resulted in a serious shortage of food — was disowned today by the Ugandan government.

Radio Uganda quoted Mr Sam Mugwisha, the Agriculture Minister, as saying that the order had not been made by the Government, but by the local branch of the ruling Uganda People's Congress (UPC) without his ministry's backing.

Traders should ignore that original order from the Kampala market authorities and should charge "fair prices", he said.

Kampala residents, desperately searching for food, found little available at their daily markets. The normally busy market was still almost deserted, and the vendors said they were confused by the abrupt change.

But it appeared that food supplies would soon be resumed at prices close to those being charged last week.

Chaos was caused at the weekend when the market authorities and the UPC ordered a sharp reduction in the prices of key commodities.

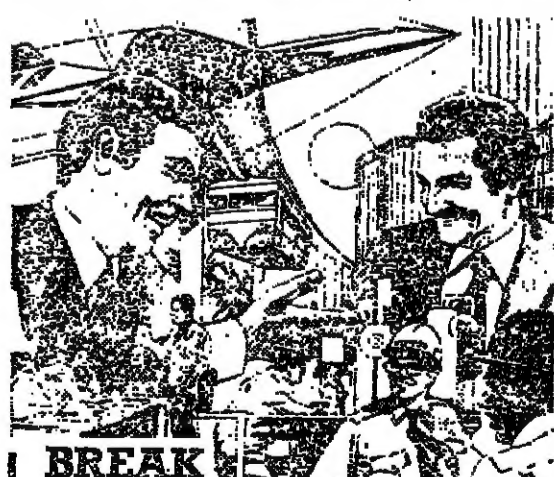
Two experts appointed by the court to examine him concluded that he was "a dangerous paranoiac, unreliable to a penal sanction", and that he should be interned in a psychiatric establishment.

M Blanc-Lapierre's own lawyers demanded a counter-investigation by three Paris experts. They agreed he was sane, and he was discharged.

But he retaliated by suing for 100,000 francs damages the doctors who had described him as a "dangerous paranoiac".

The case was heard in March of last year. It was dismissed. The two experts were awarded a symbolic one franc damages.

M Blanc-Lapierre sued the penal administration, claiming it was this case which at long last, he won yesterday.



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OVERSEAS

Mr Reagan promises 'swift retribution' for future terrorists

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Jan 27

President Reagan welcomed the hostages back to America today, just a week after they left Iran and he himself took office. Standing before a large crowd at the White House, he gave a warning that any other kidnapping of American diplomats would meet with swift retribution.

"Let terrorists be aware", he said, "that when the rules of international behaviour are violated, our response will be swift and effective retribution. We hear it said that we live in an era of limits to our power. Well, let it also be understood there are limits to our patience."

The hostages arrived at the White House at 2.30 pm after a 90-minute drive from Andrews Air Force base. There were a quarter of a million people lining the streets, cheering the convoy of buses and their police and military escorts.

There were yellow ribbons everywhere, in reference to the song "I'll hang a yellow ribbon on the old oak tree" which marks the return of a prisoner. Ever since the very first days after the hostages were captured in November 1979, ribbons have been draped round trees in various parts of the country.

Today the ribbons were everywhere. The Treasury building, a severe grey granite edifice, had ribbons hanging from its long portico. On closer inspection, they turned out to be paper cutouts, in the shape of bows, but they made a jolly and slightly bizarre sight.

There were endless signs of welcome. Mr Bruce Laingen, the senior diplomat among the hostages, remarked on one in particular: "IRS welcomes you back." IRS is the Internal Revenue Service.

There were about 7,000 people in the back garden of the White House, to cheer the hostages and to hear the President. There, the American ambassadors representing those

countries that had played a part in negotiating the hostages' release, the Algerian in pride of place, but also with the British, West German and Swiss ambassadors.

The 52 hostages who returned a week ago were joined this afternoon by Mr Richard Quene, the hostage who developed multiple sclerosis in captivity and was released last year. Their families were there, and so were the families of the eight soldiers who died in the unsuccessful rescue attempt last April.

Mr Reagan told them: "You are home and, believe me, you are welcome. You've come home to a people who, for 44 days, suffered the pain of your imprisonment, prayed for your safety, and, most importantly, shared your determination that the spirit of free men and women is not a fit subject for harassment."

After the official welcome on the White House lawn, there was a reception in the East Room. Mr Reagan presented each of the hostages with an American flag in a case.

There were to be fireworks this evening and the former hostages and their families will celebrate the occasion again, before returning home for rest and recuperation. Mr Reagan disclosed yesterday that about a dozen of them still suffer from psychological problems as a result of their captivity.

Two of the President's most senior staff, Mr Ed Meese, Counselor, and Mr James Baker, Chief of Staff, said today that the agreements with Iran are still being examined but would probably be honoured in full. Iranian companies have already started placing orders with the Treasury as to whether they should reply.

Those companies that did business with Iran before the revolution have claims, some of them very large, against Iran that are to be examined by the claims commission set up as part of the agreement on the release of the hostages.

Ill-treatment stories are played down by hostages

From Michael Leaman
West Point, Jan 27

Forty-one of the 52 former American hostages, in their first formal public appearance since their release from Iran last week, seemed anxious to play down reports of ill-treatment at the hands of their captors.

At today's press conference at West Point, the military academy, where they have been relaxing with their families since returning from Germany on Sunday, they would not go into details about what they had been through.

This may have been by instruction from the State Department. The press conference was voluntary for the former hostages and it was surprising that so many of them agreed to submit themselves to reporters who have been hounding them since their release. As it turned out, they provided less detailed information about their captivity than they have done during casual meetings with reporters here and in Germany.

One of the Marines, Sergeant Johnny McKeel, gave the pluckiest answer, when asked about reports that some of the returned hostages are suffering from mental difficulties.

"All the people I've talked to are all right," he said. "As soon as we get home and get back to chasing women it will be all right."

Colonel Thomas Schaefer, the air attaché at the embassy, explained the temporary difficulty in adjusting to freedom. "During captivity, the greatest problem was what to have with the rice," he said. "Then 48 hours later we are in Germany and President Carter is embracing us with tears in his eyes. It takes time to adjust."

Miss Elizabeth Swift, one of the two women held, warned the press against misreporting allegations of ill-treatment. She complained that she had been mistreated on the subject in *Newsweek*.



Former hostage Mr Charles Jones receiving an emotional welcome from his family.

Sergeant William Gallegos of the Marines said: "The captors were good to us by their own standards... but we were not being treated well."

None of the former hostages would be drawn into criticism of the Carter Administration's actions before their capture or during it. The closest to a critical comment came from Mr Bruce Laingen, the charged affairs at the Embassy. Discussing the aborted rescue mission last April, he said he took "a very strong view about anything that could have endangered our lives."

Mr Victor Tomseth, senior political officer, answered questions about the United States Government had set a precedent, by negotiating with terrorists. "If you look beyond the rhetoric in previous terrorist incidents, there is a precedent for negotiation except when it ended in death," he said.

Mr John Graves, public affairs officer at the embassy, said that the press had not reported properly the real aim of the young people who stormed the embassy. They were, he said, genuine students and at the beginning their call for the return of the Shah to Iran was a pretext cloaking their true intentions.

Details of how the captives passed the time were given by Mr William Keough, head of the American school in Paldan, who was visiting the embassy when it was taken. During the 14 months and a half they had read a lot and written notes about their experiences. During periodic inspections the Iranians would take away what they had written, so they would write it out again until some of them knew it by heart.

About 300 reporters attended the press conference in Eisenhower Hall, a large auditorium in the academy grounds. It was televised live.

Mr Laingen was the moderator and made an opening speech expressing gratitude for the welcome they had received on behalf of "this embassy in exile which goes out of business officially today."

Tehran uses film to repudiate US claims

From Tony Alloway
Tehran, Jan 27

Iranian officials sought confirmation they were sending filmed interviews with each of the 52 American hostages abroad for the world to judge allegations of mistreatment.

Mr Ahmad Azizi, former head of hostage affairs in the Prime Minister's office, told a press conference that half an hour from the film, which is between four and five hours long, had already been used on television last Saturday.

Mr Azizi said that in the interviews with one of their student captors, some of the hostages might complain of psychological torture concerning the length of their confinement. "But in general, most is contrary to what Carter and the others have said," he added.

At the press conference Mr Bahzad Nabavi, Minister of State and a government spokesman, further countered internal criticism of the deal that freed the hostages, amid growing signs that the Government would be able to ride the storm of protest over the accord.

Mr Nabavi questioned the policy of the new, leading moderate papers in running daily leading articles condemning the deal, saying it only provided ammunition for the BBC and foreign papers to use against Iran.

In the foreign press, the solution is referred to as the United States has paid ransom, but in Iran, they say, the opposite. "As he spoke, it was apparent that the campaign against the deal in the two newspapers, *Moshir* and *Islamic Revolution*, was beginning to lose steam."

Mr Nabavi also indicated that Iran was willing to reopen diplomatic relations with Canada, provided it undertook "not to engage in spying or assisting spying activities. In order to help the Iranian people, we help the Canadians give to six American diplomats to flee from Iran during the crisis."

In brief
Falklands move draws protest

Argentina has expressed "deep concern" at reports that the Falkland Islands is seeking to encourage people to move from St Helena, settle in the islands to help fill job vacancies (our Diplomatic Correspondent writes). Mr Anthony Williams, the British Ambassador in Buenos Aires, has been told that such a move would prejudice possible future negotiations between the two countries, according to the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that immigration is a matter for the Falklands Islands Government, not Britain.

Indian cosmonaut
Delhi, Jan 27.—The Soviet Union could put an Indian cosmonaut into space as early as 1992 if a decision on selecting the spaceman is taken now, Lieutenant-General Georgi Beregovoy, head of the Soviet cosmonaut training centre, said.

Hope fades
Sofia, Jan 27.—Rescue officials hold out little hope for the four missing crew from a Greek cargo ship, *Deifivos*, that sank off Norway's north coast, a spokesman said. Five bodies have been recovered and 29 crew have been rescued.

Less sparkle
Epervey, Jan 27.—Sales of champagne dropped by more than 4 per cent to 175,466,231 bottles last year because of a poor wine harvest in 1978 and 1980, the Champagne Wine Producers Association said.

Bets closed
Rome, Jan 27.—The public prosecutor today issued 50 arrest warrants, 22 of them for creditors, and ordered the closure of the casinos at San Remo on the Italian Riviera.

Guerrilla demand
Bogota, Jan 27.—Guerrillas holding Mr Cesar Bittman, the American linguist, demanded publication of a statement in American, European and Latin American newspapers as a condition for his release.

Haig speaks rewrites the grammar

From William Safire
New York, Jan 27

A new linguistic form called Haigravitation is rearing its head in Washington. It is the tendency of the new Secretary of State to change the state of parts of speech—from noun to adverb, from noun to verb.

The new top man at Foggy Bottom, former General Alexander Haig, studied his testimony at confirmation hearings with locutions such as "I'll have to caveat my response, senator, and I'll caveat that."

Caveat, as used by generals like Julius Caesar, is the third-person, singular present subjunctive of the Latin *caveo*, to beware. Standing by itself, caveat in Latin means "let him beware". In English, the word is a noun synonymous with warning. It is also part of the Latin phrase caveat emptor, let the buyer beware.

Until now, caveat has been a noun. In Haigravitation, it has become a verb. "I'll caveat that" means, presumably, "I'll say that with this warning." (I'll caveat the reader that this locution will soon be followed in literary circles with "I'll asterisk that.")

Not to be outdone, Senator John Glenn asked the witness: "Will you burden-share?" This is a heavy new verb formed from burden-sharing, diplomatic jargon for "my taxpayers won't kick in any more until yours do."

But Mr Glenn is not in Mr Haig's verbiage league. Not in the way you answered, Senator, was a four-star reply about immorality in high places. To context something, in this lingo, is to place it in context.

Mr Haig has a history of this sort of thing. In hearings last year, the former general said something like: "There are nuanced differences between Henry Kissinger and me on that." The exact quotation cannot be found because of the "nuance" or "nuansie," was expunged from the written record of the hearing by some unknown hand, and "differences of nuance" put in—New York Times News Service.

FBI clears the way for new Labour Secretary

From David Gross
Washington, Jan 27

To the great relief of President Reagan, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has uncovered no evidence of illegal or unethical behaviour by Mr Raymond Donovan, his choice for Secretary of Labour.

At a confirmation hearing by the Senate labour and human resources committee today, Mr Francis Mulien, Assistant Director of the FBI, said that he and his colleagues had conducted "a thorough and exhaustive" investigation into allegations of contacts between Mr Donovan and organized crime figures, as well as claims that his building firm had been involved in underhand payments to trade union officials.

In its determination to leave no stone unturned, some 120 people had been interviewed in "the most extensive" inquiry into the background of any Cabinet nominee. Mr Mulien said the investigation had failed to develop any information to substantiate several allegations made against the Labour Secretary-designate or the Schlavoone Construction Company of New Jersey, he added.

The FBI's failure to come up with any incriminating evidence against Mr Donovan should lead to the swift approval of his nomination by the Senate committee and then by the full Senate.

The hearing into his suitability for the post of Labour

Secretary opened alongside all the other Senate investigations into Mr Reagan's Cabinet nominees a couple of weeks before the new President's inauguration last Tuesday.

The hope then was that all the secretaries-designate would be confirmed by Wednesday or Thursday of last week. But when the allegations of impropriety against Mr Donovan were raised a couple of weeks ago, Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, chairman of the labour committee, postponed the hearings until after the FBI had checked fully.

Not only have the original allegations against Mr Donovan been a source of some embarrassment to Mr Reagan, but the delay in his confirmation has also highlighted the fact that the replacement of senior officials in the various government departments is proceeding much more slowly than the new administration had originally hoped.

Soon after his election last November Mr Reagan promised that his new Administration would "hit the ground running" the moment he assumed power formally on January 20. But although the confirmation of most members of his Cabinet was concluded by the Senate last week, many more junior ministers are still waiting for their nominations to be approved formally. In addition, there are still many vacancies among the several hundred senior government posts reserved for political appointees.

Abscam defendant guilty

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Jan 27

Mr Richard Kelly, the most colourful of those accused of political corruption during the so-called Abscam investigation, has become the sixth member of Congress to be found guilty of charges against him.

After six hours of deliberations here, a federal jury decided that videotape recordings showing Mr Kelly stuffing

\$25,000 (£10,400) in cash into his pockets were sufficiently good evidence to convict him.

The recordings suggested that Mr Kelly had accepted the money in return for promising to do what he should to help two fictitious Arab sheikhs to immigrate to the United States. The wealthy "Arabs" were, in fact, disguised agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Throughout the trial, Mr Kelly protested his innocence.

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Cuba alerted in case US invades

Havana, Jan 27.—Cuba is preparing its people militarily and psychologically for an assault on its 22-year-old revolution by the Reagan Administration.

Only hours after Mr Reagan took the oath of office, President Fidel Castro presided over a ceremony in which men and women of the island's new People's Militia swore to defend the revolution to the death.

The volunteer militia units, with regular Army instructors, are being organized and trained throughout Cuba. Señor Rad Castro, the Minister of Armed Forces and the President's brother, said recently: "We can expect an increase in hostility against our country."

President Castro said last month: "Nobody knows exactly what Reagan proposes to do. We have to base our defence on a Republican platform, the public statements of the candidate, and the thinking reflected by the advisers of the new President." This thinking was, extremely reactionary and dangerous, he added.

To meet the alleged threat,

the regular Army, battle-hardened in African campaigns and equipped with modern weapons, will be supported by the People's Militia, which could enrol more than a million Cubans.

Should the country be occupied, Dr Castro foresees a prolonged guerrilla war based on the traditions of Cuba's 30 years of struggle against Spanish rule in the nineteenth century, and the guerrilla war he led himself against the government of President Batista in the 1950s.

Dr Castro has called for a "patriotic war against invaders in which men, women and children would fight without quarter and use any weapon available, even machetes."

Most Western diplomats in Havana believe that Dr Castro is using the occasion to create a climate of immediate danger to unite the people behind the Government. Cuba's communist leaders say that it is their "historic responsibility" to prepare the people for any contingency.

Dr Castro has recently said:

"If they dare to invade our country, more Yankees will die here than died in the Second World War."

He recalled what he said were earlier United States efforts to destroy the revolution. He predicted that under Mr Reagan, the Central Intelligence Agency would be given a free hand, and appealed to the new president to prohibit the CIA from drawing up plans to assassinate foreign leaders.

Cuba's military doctrine, elaborated during years of intense work, is, in the first place, defence against landings, by active resistance... skillfully combined with energetic and opportunistic offensive action".

If an olive branch is offered, we will not reject it, but let nobody believe that Cuba will compromise on its principles. Cuba is and will continue to be a friend of the Soviet Union. Cuba is and will continue to be internationalist.

The term "internationalist" refers to Cuba's active support for revolutionary movements throughout the world.—Reuter.

OVERSEAS

Japan lifts economic sanctions on S Korea

From Peter Hargrave
Tokyo, Jan 27

Japanese economic sanctions against South Korea imposed after Mr. Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean opposition leader, was sentenced to death last year, are to be lifted, Mr. Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, announced today.

He told journalists in Tokyo that his Government would "unfreeze" Japanese loans to South Korea because Mr. Kim's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

"The issue has been one of Japan's greatest concerns. It was a stumbling block in the way of bilateral cooperation. But the obstacle has been removed at last and now we would like to talk with Seoul as soon as possible on the future of economic cooperation and the resumption of regular ministerial meetings between our two nations," Mr. Suzuki said.

Relations between Tokyo and Seoul began to deteriorate last year after Mr. Kim's warred South Korea that economic and diplomatic ties between the two nations would come under great strain if Mr. Kim was executed. As a consequence, Japan decided to freeze the equivalent of \$38m in loans to South Korea last year. The loans, allocated within the framework of the Japanese budget last year, were extended originally to help South Korea to build up medical and educational facilities.

Japanese Government officials claim that President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea decided to commute Mr. Kim's death sentence to life imprisonment last week because of the adverse reaction in the United States and Japan.

One official said: "The authorities in Seoul are aware that President Reagan's Administration was disturbed by the decision to execute Mr. Kim and they also knew that Japan is South Korea's main trading partner."

Mr. Suzuki's decision to lift sanctions against South Korea is likely to stir up a controversy in the Japanese Parliament during the next few weeks.

Both Communist and Socialist members of the House of Representatives pointed out today that the Japanese Government had a moral obligation to force the South Koreans to release the jailed opposition leader because he was kidnapped from a Tokyo hotel in 1973 and taken out of Japan illegally by members of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency.

Chinese academics in Hongkong dismiss Peking trial as a farce

From Richard Hughes
Hongkong, Jan 27

For the first time Chinese University, academics in Hongkong are denouncing the trial and sentencing of "Gang of Four" as "a farce" and "a continuation of political illegality."

"The trial was a 'You purge me and I purge you' game, and this kind of political struggle will go on and on," said Mr. Chang Kuo-sin, head of the Communications Department of Hongkong Baptist College.

"I would not be surprised to see cadres promoted by Mr. Deng Xiaoping, such as Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, purged one day. They are in power now because of Deng's supporters. But Mr. Deng's supporters, we will have another gang of four."

Dr. Joseph Cheng, a Hongkong Chinese University lecturer, predicted that the most important outcome of the trial would be its impact on the people of China. "The reigning Chinese leadership will have to face the problem of coping with dissatisfaction and frustration among the military, who are not happy with the way the trial has been conducted," he said.

The local Asia Forum of Human Rights will send a letter of protest to Peking against the suspended death sentences. "The trial was not fair because the defendants were not given the right to argue their case," said Mr. Samuel Ho, the executive secretary of the forum.

Another right group, Amnesty International Hongkong, is also opposing the death sentences. The protests and criticism will certainly not help the current drive to improve relations between Hongkong and Peking.

The decision of the special court to sentence her to death with a two-year reprieve was "in the spirit of revolutionary humanitarianism," Wang Guanglei said in the Communist Party newspaper *People's Daily*.

Her "life or death" was linked to the general situation of China and has no bearing on our cause."

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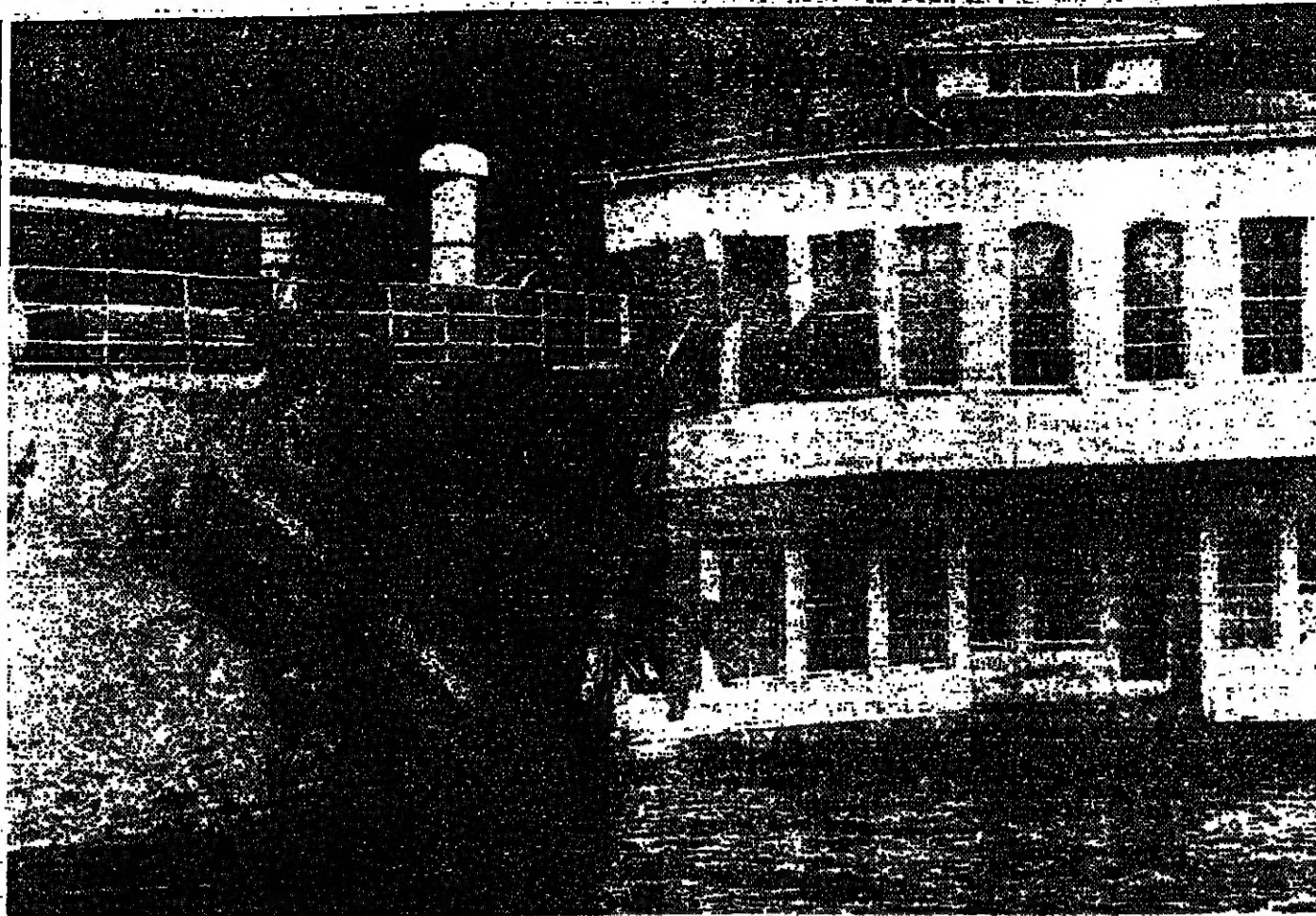
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After surviving beside one of the world's busiest waterways for 250 years, this wooden house on the Bosphorus was hit yesterday by a Greek ship. Nobody was injured.

Pakistani initiative undermined by attacks on the Soviet Union at Islamic conference

UN pressed to drop scheme for mediation in Afghanistan

From Robert Fisk
Taif, Saudi Arabia, Jan 27

Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, is under pressure in Saudi Arabia and other conservative Arab states to curtail his Pakistani request for a special United Nations representative to mediate in the Afghanistan crisis.

Although he has made no final decision, Dr. Waldheim has agreed to delegates to the third Islamic Conference, which entered its third day here today, will produce so profound a condemnation of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan that the United Nations mediator could prove worthless.

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan yesterday told delegates that he had received "immediacy" of flexibility from Moscow for the appointment of a mediator. This would be a favourable outcome for Dr. Waldheim to send a United Nations official to Kabul to start consultations for a peaceful solution to the problem.

Whether or not President Zia gave the Soviet Union advance warning of his proposal is unclear, but the Gulf states did not react very happily to his suggestion. All day yesterday four representatives of the Afghan rebel bands fighting the Soviet Army vainly sought an interview with Dr. Waldheim to express their abhorrence that a United Nations representative might negotiate with the Afghan Government and the Russians.

The man Dr. Waldheim might have appointed to the post is Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the former United Nations Special Representative in Cyprus. Quite by chance—of that, at least, is what the United Nations claims—Señor Pérez de Cuellar was in Taif with Dr. Waldheim today. In fact, he seems to have been waiting for the outcome of the summit to see if he might be travelling to Kabul, Tehran, and Islamabad.

Within the next 24 hours, the Afghan delegation, which holds observer status at the conference, is scheduled to deliver an address condemning any political negotiation with the

states represented in Taif understand the seriousness of the Afghan crisis and accept that some political formula will have to be found if the Soviet Union is to be induced to withdraw.

This has given rise already to rumours that the special Afghan committee, made up of four of the Islamic nations, proposed to send Mr. Yasir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to Moscow to open negotiations directly with the Russians.

As for Mr. Arafat, he was far too preoccupied today with this morning's conference session, where leaders of the 37 Islamic nations began their deliberations on the methods which should be used to free Jerusalem from Israeli control.

King Hassan of Morocco called for a *jihad* (holy war) against Israel, although he also took care to define this notion as a "moral and material struggle" rather than a military conflict. The King leads the Arab committee which tries this year.

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Salvador junta claims pilot smuggled arms

San Salvador, Jan 27

A pilot alleged to have been smuggling arms into El Salvador for guerrillas fighting the Government was paraded before journalists by the authorities.

Señor Julio Romero Talavera, said to be a Nicaraguan, had an arm wound, which the Salvador Army said he had received "while trying to escape" after his Costa Rica-registered twin-engine aircraft made a forced landing on Sunday about 70 miles south of here.

The authorities said the aircraft had been parachuting arms to the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, the left-wing Farabundo Martí Liberation Front said fighting was continuing with guerrillas in the north-east of the country. The front said it controlled 12 miles of the road between Cusajunima and Ocotepeque.

The front also accused government troops of carrying out "homicidal operations" against the civilian inhabitants of San Mateo and Villa Victoria in central El Salvador—Agencia France Presse.

Cannon find may start Californian gold rush

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Jan 27

The discovery of five rust-encrusted ancient ship cannons on a Santa Barbara beach could inspire a hunt for Spanish gold off the coast of southern California, according to Professor Frank Frost who teaches seafaring history at the University of California.

Professor Frost said that the five guns, which were washed ashore during the recent heavy seas, could have come from a wrecked ship sunk in Santa Barbara channel. The ship could have been one of the British or Dutch pirate vessels which once preyed on Spanish galleons off Californian waters.

Publicity about the find could lure hundreds of treasure seekers to the area, Professor Frost said.

The cannons were discovered over the weekend by a beach stroller who at first thought the guns were rusted sewer pipes.

Professor Frost believes the cannons were made during the sixteenth century. He said: "Until the 1800s, the British used to hang off this coast waiting for the Manila galleon which every year or almost every year, the Spanish in the Philippines would send with all the treasure they had collected."

The treasure—thousands of pounds of gold and silver—was put on a mule team to Mexico City. Then it was taken to Vera Cruz and put on treasure fleet bound for Spain.

It took a dozen people to carry each of the five cannons, three and a half feet long and weighing up to 700lb. apiece, on a lorry which transported them to the University of California.

Searchers also found swivel mounts and what are believed to be musket barrels. It is hoped to clean the guns and put them on public display.

Hospital victim awarded £1.2m

New York, Jan 27

A man of 27 who was blinded after birth by a medical experiment performed on him with his parents' consent will receive \$2.9m (£1.2m) damages for malpractice.

The lawyer for Mr. Daniel Burton, who remained in incubator for 28 days after he was born prematurely at New York hospital in 1953, said his client had been used as "a human guinea pig." The experiment consisted in administering huge doses of oxygen to premature babies—UPI.

PERSONAL also on page 26

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PARLIAMENT, January 27, 1981

Jobless total serious: PM does not intend to depart from policy

House of Commons

For years Britain has tolerated overpopulation, restrictive practices and pay increases far in excess of productivity and at last they had a Government which was dealing with the underlying problems, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when she was questioned on the unemployment figures announced today.

The exchanges began after Mr Ivan Lawrence (Barnet, C) had said, amid Labour laughter, Conservative MPs warmly welcomed Mrs Thatcher's intention to arrange a new House of Lords for investors and entrepreneurs.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab), said the House of Commons in time provided by the Government which has created unemployment figures announced today.

Mr Foot: We have asked that figures of this tragic significance should have been debated and arrangements should have been made for the Government to provide time.

The figures announced today are worse than any unemployment figures announced since the end of the war. They are worse than any figures for January, except one month in the 1930s. That is the situation we face.

In May 1977 when the unemployment figures were more than a million less than today, Mrs Thatcher said: "We would have been drummed out of office if we had these figures."

She said: "I face the House of Commons and debate these matters properly. Will she acknowledge that she has been responsible for the unemployment figures we have had recorded in this country this century?"

Mr Thatcher: Mr Foot will pursue the question of unemployment through the proper channels, with the Leader of the House (Mr Pym) which as a former Leader of the House he knows full well is the place and time to pursue them.

These times are different from the 1930s (Labour protests). During the 1930s there were only 18 million people at work. The employed working population today is something near 24 million people.

Mr Foot: Mrs Thatcher has acknowledged for the first time that these are figures of a quite different, tragic and momentous consequence. Does she intend to

Mr Prior: The Government is not using unemployment as an economic weapon. The amount of aid we are giving through special employment measures, and the temporary short-time working compensation scheme, and through aid on a massive scale to industries like British Leyland, British Shipbuilders, the NEB and many others, is on a scale which refutes the Labour argument that the country might not be facing such difficulties now.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): Does he not feel deeply ashamed at the desperate plight that Britain has been brought to by this most doctrinaire and reactionary of all governments?

When will the Government realize that the policy of monetarism is defunct and hopeless? When will the Tories come about and bring some of our young people, especially young people, back into work?

Mr Prior: I share the concern of the whole House. (Renewed applause from the Opposition.) I like to stand here with unemployment at this level.

The policies adopted by this Government, however hard and however difficult, are not likely in the long run to get this country back on to a firm footing than anything suggested by the Opposition.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, L): He is not the time come for the Cabinet to stop using unemployment as an economic weapon? Actions speak louder than words. If he cannot persuade the House to stop doing this, he should resign.

Lord Mowbray and Sturton (C) said the amendment only concerned collections of birds' eggs already in the possession of museums before enactment of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill were not intended to be the subject of protection, the Earl of Avon, a Lord in Waiting, said when the Bill was considered in committee.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu moved an amendment to Clause 1 (Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs) which would provide a defence for bona-fide museums with existing collections of birds and eggs able to show that these specimens were in their possession before the passing of the Act.

He said he was not an egg collector but the Council of Museums Association, of which he was a member, were concerned on this point. It would be difficult in the future for museums to prove the source of their eggs if indeed it were known.

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (Lib), for the Opposition, said his party supported the amendment.

The Government believed the amendment created more problems than it attempted to solve. Pre-Act egg collections were intended and not likely to be the subject of prosecutions.

The amendment was withdrawn. There were one or two wildfowl like the widgeon and the pinkfoot which one could only shoot at night, Viscount Massereene and

proceed with the policies that have helped produce them? Mrs Thatcher: Mr Foot seems to indicate you cannot fight inflation and unemployment together. To fight inflation is the best way to fight unemployment in the longer run.

One of the problems we have had for 20 years we have not taken steps we should have done to put fundamental problems right.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Lab): Is she serious in black faces of these figures? Her advice to keep on making the medicine is creating industrial misdeeds, unemployment in the Kingdom. When on earth will she come to her senses and face reality?

Mr Thatcher: The policy of changing industry, making it more competitive, trying to encourage innovation and investment is the only policy which will create jobs in the long run. It does not intend to depart from it for one moment.

The figures are very serious and we are trying to assist as we can in the area, we have considerably increased the youth opportunities programme.

In the United Kingdom as a whole we are spending together, on special employment measures and training, some £645m. That is a massive sum of money with which we view the situation.

Mr Peter Bottomley (Greenwich, Woolwich, West C): Would she confirm that the welcome reduction in unemployment would, if it had occurred last year or the year before, have done a great deal more to reduce the present level of unemployment?

Mr Thatcher: Yes, I gladly confirm that had pay increases marched hand in hand with productivity, we should not be as uncompetitive as some firms are today. We would have had a lot less unemployment and a lot less economic problems.

Mr Joan Lester (Eton and Slough, Lab): Bearing in mind the propaganda of the Conservatives at the time of the last election, would she confirm that the number of unemployed could be made to decline without the increase in unemployment rate by the Government?

Mr Thatcher: There are no main reasons for the substantial increase in unemployment. One is the world recession. The other is the fact that we have had to have a lot of over-investment, restrictive practices and pay increases far in excess of productivity.

Mr Prior: The Government is not using unemployment as an economic weapon. The amount of aid we are giving through special employment measures, and the temporary short-time working compensation scheme, and through aid on a massive scale to industries like British Leyland, British Shipbuilders, the NEB and many others, is on a scale which refutes the Labour argument that the country might not be facing such difficulties now.

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Unique concentration of newspaper power in one set of hands

Such concentrations of newspaper power as were proposed by the purchase of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* by Mr Rupert Murdoch were probably unique in the history of the British press.

John Smith, a leading spokesman on trade, said opening the emergency debate on the proposed sale of the titles. The newspapers concerned had a unique place in the national life, he added.

Mr Smith (North Lanarkshire, Lab) said the proposed purchase raised vital questions of public interest. The House of Commons should make a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in this case was clear.

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Trade Secretary explains why he consented to Mr Murdoch's bid for 'The Times'

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade (Oswestry, C), said the holding of the debate and the interest expressed both within the House and outside it, was an important place which Times Newspapers had in Britain's national life, and the matter of genuine public concern.

The general desire was to see that *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and the various supplements continued in publication and to preserve the traditions and independence of the press.

Under the 1973 Fair Trading Act there was a presumption that a proposed acquisition of a newspaper should be investigated by the Monopolies Commission.

The Act did, however, provide for a Secretary of State to make a reference to the Monopolies Commission if he considered it to be in the public interest.

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Bidding process unfairly conducted-MP

Mr Jo Grimond (Orkney and Shetland, L), a trustee of *The Guardian*, said it had not been stressed enough that there were other people in the field besides Mr Murdoch.

The chairman of Warburgs was Lord Roll. In this capacity he had been asked to conduct the bidding process for the *Times* and *Sunday Times* titles.

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Protection for collections of eggs in museums

Lord Mowbray and Sturton (C) said the amendment only concerned collections of birds' eggs already in the possession of museums before enactment of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill were not intended to be the subject of protection, the Earl of Avon, a Lord in Waiting, said when the Bill was considered in committee.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu moved an amendment to Clause 1 (Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs) which would provide a defence for bona-fide museums with existing collections of birds and eggs able to show that these specimens were in their possession before the passing of the Act.

He said he was not an egg collector but the Council of Museums Association, of which he was a member, were concerned on this point. It would be difficult in the future for museums to prove the source of their eggs if indeed it were known.

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (Lib), for the Opposition, said his party supported the amendment.

The Government believed the amendment created more problems than it attempted to solve. Pre-Act egg collections were intended and not likely to be the subject of prosecutions.

The amendment was withdrawn. There were one or two wildfowl like the widgeon and the pinkfoot which one could only shoot at night, Viscount Massereene and

proceed with the policies that have helped produce them? Mrs Thatcher: Mr Foot seems to indicate you cannot fight inflation and unemployment together. To fight inflation is the best way to fight unemployment in the longer run.

One of the problems we have had for 20 years we have not taken steps we should have done to put fundamental problems right.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Lab): Is she serious in black faces of these figures? Her advice to keep on making the medicine is creating industrial misdeeds, unemployment in the Kingdom. When on earth will she come to her senses and face reality?

Mr Thatcher: The policy of changing industry, making it more competitive, trying to encourage innovation and investment is the only policy which will create jobs in the long run. It does not intend to depart from it for one moment.

The figures are very serious and we are trying to assist as we can in the area, we have considerably increased the youth opportunities programme.

In the United Kingdom as a whole we are spending together, on special employment measures and training, some £645m. That is a massive sum of money with which we view the situation.

Mr Peter Bottomley (Greenwich, Woolwich, West C): Would she confirm that the welcome reduction in unemployment would, if it had occurred last year or the year before, have done a great deal more to reduce the present level of unemployment?

Mr Thatcher: Yes, I gladly confirm that had pay increases marched hand in hand with productivity, we should not be as uncompetitive as some firms are today. We would have had a lot less unemployment and a lot less economic problems.

Mr Joan Lester (Eton and Slough, Lab): Bearing in mind the propaganda of the Conservatives at the time of the last election, would she confirm that the number of unemployed could be made to decline without the increase in unemployment rate by the Government?

SPORT

Football

Thompson recovers from nightmare to keep the dream alive

By Morgan Fox

Football Correspondent

Company 3 West Ham 2

The question is whether Coventry City will make their first appearance at Wembley or West Ham United's third in a row. The answer is, no, neither. After last night's 2-1 victory, the Hammers are now in a position to save themselves, after conceding two apparently damning goals.

The lead part in this dramatic play was taken by Thompson, the Coventry forward who gave West Ham their second goal and then scored twice in the right direction, turning his team back into the game. He scored the winner with the first serious kick of the match.

Coventry have never been this close to a final and though they are also in the fifth round of the FA Cup, the Coventry manager, Peter Taylor, has been told that the League Cup is a dead end. The Coventry manager has been told that the League Cup is a dead end. The Coventry manager has been told that the League Cup is a dead end.



Thompson: lead part in dramatic match.

Four minutes later, Coventry's despair was forgotten. Thompson punched the ball into the penalty area from the right side. Parkes, who was in the goal, was there to stop it. But Thompson's kick was too good for him. The ball went into the net. It was a goal that could have won the match for Coventry. But it was not. The game continued, with both teams trying to score. In the end, West Ham won 2-1.

Shrewsbury cannot make sense of double Dutch

By Stuart Jones

Shrewsbury 0

Shrewsbury's manager, John Toshack, has been told that the League Cup is a dead end. The Coventry manager has been told that the League Cup is a dead end. The Coventry manager has been told that the League Cup is a dead end.

Parkin settles matters in the final minutes

By Gerald Richmond

Wolverhampton 2

A mundane FA Cup fourth round replay at Molineux last night flared into life during the last fifteen minutes. After Watford had cancelled out Wolverhampton Wanderers' penalty goal, a last minute shot by Derek Parkin was enough to win the game for the Wolves. Parkin's goal was a relief for the Wolves, who had been under a lot of pressure. The game was a close one, with both teams having chances. In the end, Wolverhampton won 2-1.

Journalist finding he can manage

Peter Keeling, former athlete on the track of a new career north of the Arctic Circle

Football's press boxes have frequently found room for former managers and players. Names like Danny Blanchflower, Tony Pawan, Jackie Milburn and Jimmy Armfield do not in any way exhaust the list of footballers who have made the transition without the need for a ghost at their elbow. Movement in the opposite direction is less common. The trail to the manager's office at Highbury, established in the 1930s by George Allison, has not been beaten smooth by his successors.

Next month, Peter Keeling will take the first modest steps along a similar path. Keeling, a former international middle-distance runner, leaves behind a thriving news agency in Lancashire, a wife and four children, to manage a football club 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle. His contract with Tromsø, newly promoted to Norway's second division, is for twelve months.

An element of gamble and a dash of fantasy-fulfilment cannot be denied but there is enough in Peter Keeling's background to suggest that the odds against success are not as long as they might appear at first glance. Twenty years ago, when two children, a mortgage and an empty bank account were pressing for a staff journalist, he gave up a position as a staff journalist and turned freelance to further his career as an athlete. Achievements then fortified his ambitions now.

As a schoolboy Peter Keeling stood on the terraces at Epsom Lane, desperate to see his favourite team, Sheffield United, in particular. His natural talents, though, took him into athletics, which occupied most of his leisure time after he joined the Sheffield Telegraph at the age of seventeen. It was six years before a strike gave him the chance to discover the benefits of rigorous training. In eight weeks Keeling reduced his personal best of 4 minutes 24 seconds for the mile by twenty seconds.

That performance, in the Emsley Carr Mile at White City, earned him a first international year between 1959 and 1965. Peter Keeling was a regular member of British teams in all parts of the world. He reached second place in the European rankings behind Alan Simpson, whom he was coaching. But at that time he had left Sheffield to find better training facilities. A year with the Manchester Evening News was followed by the decision to freelance so that journalism could be dovetailed with thrice-daily training sessions.



Peter Keeling: six years on athletics international before football took over.

Football resurfaced as a major enthusiasm when Keeling's athletics career ended in 1966. The opportunity to coach the two teams with an invitation from Tony Waddington, then manager of Stoke City, to supervise his players' conditioning and fitness training. When Alan Ball senior left Stoke to manage first Halifax Town and then Preston North End, Keeling undertook similar duties at those clubs. He took coaching courses and passed the examination that entitled him to the first FA coaching badge.

A friendship which began when Keeling was a frequent competitor at the White City opened another door. It was his custom to call at Craven Cottage for a massage and there he met Bobby Robson, who was a Fulham player and a keen follower of athletics. The two men linked up again three years ago when Robson, now manager of Ipswich Town, asked Keeling to help supervise pre-season training at Portman Road, to scout in the north west and to provide assessments of teams and players.

Encouraged by his accumulating experience, Keeling began to apply for managerial posts in the Football League. Often there was no reply. Sometimes he received a duplicated rejection note. The only sign of progress was an occasional postcard from a chairman wishing him well but regretting that lack of professional experience, etc. etc. Not to have played professionally meant exclusion from a club as tightly-knit as any old boy network.

Norway proved less narrow in its requirements. Peter Keeling's name was not unknown there. Visits to Scandinavia gave him a number of contacts. He writes a weekly column about English football which is syndicated in thirty-five Norwegian newspapers. His links with Ipswich provided an authoritative reference. Just before Christmas, an offer arrived from Tromsø.

Keeling has met his part-time players but not seen them in action. Twenty-four hours of darkness daily and six feet of snow denied him that. But the facilities impressed him. A pitch with under-soil heating and a sports hall which he says matches anything at Everton or Manchester United were evidence of a club determined to make an impression.

The season ahead, though, presents no soft options if Tromsø are to bridge the acknowledged gulf between second and third division football. The northern section of the second division comprises only twelve clubs. The championship is a play-off for a second chance to go up. The bottom three clubs are relegated. In a season that lasts, with a three-week break from late April to the beginning of October, meaningless matches are virtually unknown.

So what approach does a freelance journalist bring to the task? "A broad outlook," Keeling says. "So much of the job is man-management. Professional footballers leave school in this country at sixteen, join an organization that coaxes them and ferries them through the years to reach thirty-one or two without knowing what life's about."

"I'm encouraged by the relationship I've built up with the pros I've worked with. Remember, I've had to do the toughest part of training—making them work without the ball. So far, I've always managed to get them on my side. I've had a successful response to that. They've all been international downwards."

Peter Keeling has another qualification to add: as manager of an International All-Star team that includes Nobby Stiles, Bobby Charlton, Francis Lee and other illustrious names of the recent past. During the last ten years they have raised some £90,000 for charity. As the long Norwegian night unfolds into another day we seek to see whether all this will be enough to create a permanent vacancy in English press boxes.

Gerald Sinstadt

Rugby Union

A match to bring back some stirring memories

By Richard Streeton

Loughborough's side includes two strong centres in Steve Graham, their captain and a Bridgend player, and a Bridgend player who has played for Cambridge, and two props, Dillon Davies and Chris Collins, with Welsh county players, Steve Jones, a scrum-half for the past two years, will have more of last year's 'Twickenham team playing and are led by Peter Thornley, former England 15, a last minute try. Graham has played for North, Lincs and Derby. For this level they are a mature side and their successes against the All Blacks, and a defeat over Bath and Reading, before a well-earned Leeds team were beaten 19-10 in the challenge round.

Welsh divisional group and the basic pattern of that game might be repeated. Swansea claimed two wins in the first round, having struggled through a lack of possession. Swansea shared the title with Durham in 1965 and twice finished runners-up in the 1970s. Their best known current player is Mark Wain, an attacking full back and reliable goal kicker, who played in the national Welsh training party. He vies at the moment with Roger Blyth as the Swansea club's leading points scorer this season. Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield in the east Midlands group and had a comprehensive 37-9 success against Surrey in the challenge round. With nine of last year's team departed, they have a large quota of freshmen, whose best days lie ahead. David Thomas on the left wing has been in the UAU representative side and Nicholas George on the right wing has played with Oldie. Durham, who finished runners-up last year, will certainly start favourites, though, because of their strong pack. It includes Peter Allington, who played No 8 for the junior side in the Scottish national trial earlier this month but who plays at lock for his university, Ellison, the No 8 has played for Yorkshire, and three other forwards have senior club experience.

Bristol have twice lost to Manchester at this stage in the past 20 years and are hoping their new recruits will change the record. They came through the south-west group despite defeats from Exeter and Reading and went on to beat University College London, 20-10 in the challenge round. Their most prominent player is John Carr, who has been in Gloucestershire's centre this season. Manchester, who last won the title in 1949, have their best team for several seasons and beat Warwick 32-15 in the challenge round. They are led by Nick Bennett, a blinding flanker and UAU representative, and also in their pack are a Nigerian, Francis Ennerfer, who is only 18 and 6ft 2in and No 8 of great promise, and another youngster, Nicholas Wheeler, a 17 stone tighthead prop, whose scrumming has been superbly utilized by the Manchester club. The university wings are Keith Hughes, who plays for Sale, and Adrian Wall, who is a Huddersfield's top try scorer. Phil Parker, the scrum-half, has played for Pontypool.

Luton battle in Commons

Luton Town promised a legal battle against British Rail and Bedfordshire Council yesterday evening to try to save their home ground at Kenilworth Road, their home since 1905. The County Council wants to build a new road between Luton and Dunstable. They want land which is used for railway line carrying freight to be used for a new road. The railway line runs just outside Luton Town's property but they are not a company owned by Luton. Bedfordshire Council want to build a new road between Luton and Dunstable. They want land which is used for railway line carrying freight to be used for a new road. The railway line runs just outside Luton Town's property but they are not a company owned by Luton.

Cannon gives his support as Gradi makes changes

Jim Cannon, the Crystal Palace captain, urged his teammates to back the manager, David Gradi, yesterday in the fight for first division survival. Mr Gradi watched his first training session yesterday when he was joined by the players after taking over from Malcolm Allison. On the coaching side, Mr Gradi has moved quickly to get his new team into the first division. He has made changes to the team, including the signing of new players. Cannon, who has been a key player for Crystal Palace, expressed his support for Gradi and his changes. He said that he was confident that the team would be able to survive in the first division.

Ministers will boycott opening match

The Irish Government will not be represented at next week's opening match of the Irish Rugby Football Union. The Irish Government will not be represented at next week's opening match of the Irish Rugby Football Union. The Irish Government will not be represented at next week's opening match of the Irish Rugby Football Union. The Irish Government will not be represented at next week's opening match of the Irish Rugby Football Union. The Irish Government will not be represented at next week's opening match of the Irish Rugby Football Union.

St Bartholomew's turn the screw

St Bartholomew's gained the psychological advantage of the lead when the Royal Free centres fell offside in front of their own posts and Appleby made them pay for it. The forwards came to blows once in this half, and the referee felt obliged to speak to the captains, Thomas and Adams. Bar the last 10 minutes, St Bartholomew's spent the second half going forward on a broad front. Royal Free could do little to stop them. The pressure on them made it inevitable that they would be caught. Fitzpatrick dropped over for a try when Royal Free were slow to react to a lineout. Goodfellow drove for a corner and, near the end of the half, St Bartholomew's scored a try. The pressure on them made it inevitable that they would be caught. Fitzpatrick dropped over for a try when Royal Free were slow to react to a lineout. Goodfellow drove for a corner and, near the end of the half, St Bartholomew's scored a try.

Cycling

Russians too good, so Britain bans them

A Russian application to enter a team for the Sealink international cycle race in April has been rejected, because they would pedal off from the British. The Sealink race is a 100-mile time trial. The Russians are too good, so Britain has banned them. The British Cycling Federation's officials say there were no places left, but Mr Burns insisting that the Russians would ruin the Sealink race as a spectacle. The only other teams to be provided in the Milk Race was a red-shirted phalanx at the front every day. Furthermore, their presence would be unfair to the "less fortunate amateurs" without comparable State support.

Yesterday's results

FA Cup, fourth round replays: Ipswich (2) 1-3 Shrewsbury (0) 0; Wolves (2) 2-1 Watford (0) 1; Wolves (2) 2-1 Watford (0) 1; Wolves (2) 2-1 Watford (0) 1. League Cup Semi-final round, first leg: Coventry (0) 2-1 West Ham (2) 2; Ipswich (0) 1-2 Watford (0) 1. Third division: Burnley (1) 1-1 Portsmouth (1) 1; Burnley (1) 1-1 Portsmouth (1) 1. Today's fixtures: Luton v Watford (12.30); Exeter v Reading (12.30); Luton v Watford (12.30); Exeter v Reading (12.30).

Squash rackets

Briars' form provides compensation

By Rex Bellamy

Squash Rackets Correspondent

As the seasons predicted, Gavall 'Briars' will play Ross Norman in the semi-final round of the British under-23 championship at Wembley tomorrow evening (today to a rest day). In the other match the top seed, Jahangir Khan, will be opposed by the 19-year-old cousin, Zahir Hussain Khan, who beat the fourth and sixth seeds in consecutive rounds. Briars was compensation for the fact that Stephen Bateman and Ashley Naylor, two of his stablemates at Walton Hall, near Wakefield, were among the losers. Except for a few errors in the first game and a brief loss of momentum in the second, Briars was too severe for Trevor Wilkinson. Wilkinson plays a neat, sensibly designed game but does not yet have the shots to cause lasting concern. He is a good player, but he is not yet a champion. He is a good player, but he is not yet a champion.

Four players sent off

Four players—Clackson and Platt (Oldham) and Dickinson and Townsend (Leeds)—were sent off in last night's Rugby League game between Oldham and Leeds. The game was a close one, with both teams having chances. In the end, Oldham won 12-10. The four players were sent off for various reasons, including fouls and unsporting behavior. The referee, who was a former player himself, was strict in his decisions. The game was a disappointing one for both teams, but it was a good one for the fans. The game was a disappointing one for both teams, but it was a good one for the fans.

Why Mr Frank Chapple's attack on the electoral college may yet be vindicated

The man who really scored at Wembley

Mr Frank Chapple, the favourite *bête noire* of the Left, made one of the few articulate and intellectually honest speeches of the day during Labour's special conference at Wembley. He was barracked but his presentation only faltered once and there the needle temporarily stuck in the groove.

As the protest mounted, the electrician's leader returned three times to his complaint that, unless the party leader was elected by the "one man, one vote" system, then the choice would be influenced by Communists, Fascists and Conservatives.

In the event, his appeal fell on predictably deaf ears because the block votes had already been marshalled in support of an electoral college. The only argument was over who should have the greatest say, and some unions now show every sign of embarrassment at getting more than they really wanted.

But however the power shares are divided, an issue of principle remains: whose finger on the political trigger? Can the choice of the leader of the Labour Party be decisively influenced by trade unionists owing allegiance to another party?

In fact, this "official" Communists are probably stronger



Mr Chapple, barracked.

now in terms of covert political clout than for many years. The economic recession has robbed the Communist Party of much of its traditional industrial field of play on the shopfloor. But its ability to exert power within the "Broad Left" of the Labour movement has grown apace.

On their own, the Communists can achieve nothing. Nowhere in top union echelons do they enjoy a majority. There are only two party members on the 41-strong TUC general council. There are just four on the 25-member executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers; two sit on the nine-member executive of the train

drivers' union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef). There are about half a dozen on the Transport and General Workers Union executive and about the same number on the executive of the National Union of Railwaymen. Their numbers on the policy-making national committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has diminished in recent years, and in unions like the General and Municipal Workers' and the electricians their influence is negligible.

But although their numbers are small, in the Seventies' climate of Left credibility they achieved much by working through their Labour allies. Mr Michael Costello, the Communist Party industrial organizer, was a keen lobbyist in the bars at last October's conference and defends the unions' capture of power. "No new principle affecting the basis of decision-making has been taken," he said. "The unions have always been the decisive force in the Labour Party."

"The Wembley decision simply corrects an anomalous position that had become intolerable once the Parliamentary Labour Party ceased to represent the party's policies. Communists, as members of affiliated unions, have always paid the political levy and have thus been open members of the Labour Party in the sense decided by the party's founders and enshrined in the constitution."

His disingenuous explanation

of the party line will not cut much ice with Dr David Owen and his colleagues, who fear with some justice that if the trade union votes in Labour's electoral college are to be cast by union executives, then Communists and their almost unassailable allies in the Labour Party will indeed play a substantial role.

Of the risk of Fascist influence little needs to be said. The National Front has had a minimal success in infiltrating some union branches particularly in the London area among railwaymen and in postal sorting offices. But they are a social problem rather than a political force.

But the position of the Conservatives is much more ambiguous. In the first place, the party's "labour" arm, has been conducting a reasonably successful campaign to persuade Tory voters who belong to unions to opt out of paying the political levy to the Labour Party. The figures speak for themselves. More than 200,000 engineering workers out of a total membership of 1.2 million do not pay the levy. In the 130,000-strong boilermakers' society, the figure is 51,000. In the 349,000-member builders' union, the union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, 149,000 have opted out. And in the private union, the Society of Graphic and Allied Trades (Sogat), 155,000 out of 205,000 have taken the same course.

Trade unionists who opt out

are then barred from taking part in traditional political activity such as electing delegates to the Labour Party conference to the management committees of local parties. They are obliged to remain silent when political business is conducted in the branches.

But in unions where opting out can be an uncomfortable experience (not to put too fine a point on it), Tory members who continue to pay the levy urge support for moderate leaders such as Mr Terry Duffy of the engineering workers. Where the candidates are not so well known, things are more difficult, as witnessed when Mr James Prior, then Shadow Employment Minister, voted at a meeting of his white-collar union, Apex for a candidate who did not seem to be getting much support and wasn't on a "slate". The man turned out to be a Communist.

The general idea of the Conservative trade unionists is to encourage a shift away from class warfare and the policies of confrontation with Tory governments. It is admittedly a long-term strategy and it does not offer much by way of Tory influence on the inner workings of the Labour Party.

Millions of trade unionists will continue to vote Conservative, however, and if their political views do not permeate very far up the power structure of the party, their influence may be felt if union leaders canvas their members' feelings before casting their electoral college votes for Labour's leader.

The practical implications of these alternatives—power exercised by Communist-influenced union leaders or by Tory-voting rank and file members—is neatly summed up by Mr John Bowis, until recently head of special affairs at Conservative Central Office. "The party has indeed got itself into a position where non-Labour supporters will have an influential say in the election of the Labour leader whichever system of electoral college voting they adopt."

Either the vote will be determined by caucus meetings at the top of the unions, and people like Mr Mick McGahey (the miners' Communist vice-president) and Mr Ken Gill (Communist general secretary of the engineering white-collar union TASS) will have a crucial say in their respective unions. Or, by balloting the union membership in some way, they will bring into the process people who support other parties but nevertheless still pay the political levy.

In "practice", unions are likely to behave as they have always behaved. Those with a tradition of consulting the members will pull into the electoral process many trade unionists who vote Tory or Liberal. Those that normally take such decisions at executive level will inevitably involve Communists and their allies. So when the decisions have been made, Mr Chapple will be seen to be right.

Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Bernard Levin

Mammoth footprints seen in Piccadilly

I don't know when, or indeed whether, I have had a more depressing experience in an art gallery than that provided by the exhibition at the Royal Academy, *A New Spirit in Painting*. The title seems to me the most stupendous misnomer since the term "People's Democracies" was coined: the spirit visible on the Academy's walls is about as new as Queen Anne, the Woolly Mammoth or the political thinking of Mr Michael Foot. Hundreds and hundreds of square feet are devoted to work which is not only not new but which represents the exhausted flag-end of a tradition which was born dead and has been getting dead ever since; it is not too much to say that if you really want to know why most of the population would never dream of entering an art gallery you will find the answer roughly halfway along Piccadilly on the northern side.

There are exceptions, of course. The three Rockneys are full of light and colour, though they are below his best; a huge Matisse, *Transparence du Verbe*, throws with life energy; R. B. Kira, in *The Orientalist*, reminds us that one of the most important functions of art used to be to show the humanity in humanity; Lucien Freud, though he certainly doesn't do that, offers a portrait, *The Big Man*, of outstanding vigour and, incidentally, draughtsmanship; there are four Picassos which, though they are sub-standard ones and anyway look as though they have wandered into the place by mistake, affordily demonstrate the difference between genius and talent, to say nothing of the difference between genius and mediocrity, let alone genius and a moderate ability at the three-card trick.

There are a few more things. Balbus deserves a second glance; you can regard Francis Bacon as a significant artist, well worth giving wall-space to. If you like, though I would be obliged if you would refrain from trying to convince me of the validity of your belief: Frank Auerbach has a certain skill; Willem de Kooning is all right if you like that sort of thing (I don't actually dislike it myself). And that is just about that.

The most striking quality about most of the rest is its lifelessness: by the end of my second tour of the exhibition, I was longing for Carl Andre to come and fold a few blankets



Two Royal Academy exhibits: Lucien Freud's Head of the Big Man and Andy Warhol's portrait of David Hockney

or pile up some bricks, or for Whistler to sue Ruskin, or for the Dadaists to burst in and smash the entire place to pieces nothing but a hopeless negative, *Weltschmerz*, appropriately enough, the Germans are by far the worst, and the worst of those is Markus Lüpertz, whose work calls urgently for somebody to start the Second World War all over again. And at any rate Lüpertz is saying something, even if it is something that nobody in his right mind would want to hear; but you would hardly believe,



I think that there are six works by Andy Warhol, that one-man demonstration of the triumph of publicity over art. Or that there are five of the silly scribbles of Cy Twombly. Or that there is a rectangular by Alan Charlton, seven yards wide by three high, divided horizontally into seven identical yard-wide slices, painted in an absolutely even blue-grey monochrome from end to end, which has prompted the chief ass of the three asses who have selected the exhibits to refer, in his introduction in the catalogue, to the Beckett-like loneliness of

Alan Charlton's canvases. The catalogue, apart from the contribution of the asses aforementioned (they are Christos M. Joachimides, Norman Rosenthal and Nicholas Serota, and the last of them ought to know better, being the Director of the Whitechapel Gallery), is excellent: every one of the pictures is illustrated, well over half of the reproductions being in colour and there are ample biographical and other details, though these do not constitute an entirely unqualified blessing, as they include, in the note on a dreary Italian called Mario

Menz, a passage which I had to read twice to make sure that I had not written it myself as a parody.

Menz sought to suggest the parallel between social and economic ills and proliferation by confronting such simple (even primitive) images as the 'tub' with a neon tube moulded into the numbers of Fibonacci's numerical progression. Around 1973 he began incorporating a numerical element into the structure of the work itself. Thus, selecting a cafeteria as typical site for human proliferation, he constructed tables that would accommodate people in groups of 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34 and 55. When this series was exhibited in the gallery of the Kaiserhof in Berlin the tables were used by visitors, which reveals

Menz's tendency to underline his didactic intentions by encouraging a physical or spatial interaction between the spectator and the artwork. Then there is Robert Rymann, who paints canvases plain white all over and calls them *Bridge*, *Division*, *Unit*, *Crest* and *Acme* ("Dear Marie Props. I suffer from Acme") respectively; the last is a painting of a white cube, entirely filled with something like 250 square yards of paper with hundreds of more or less identical skull-shaped ovals; there is Georg Baselitz, a painter of 'average' Gordon Fraser Gallery Christmas-card quality whose contribution to civilization lies not in the pictures but in the fact that he has had them hung upside down, thus inevitably leading

Le Chef des Anies to say that if doing so the artist "not only liberated himself from the bonds of a traditional conception of painting but took up, by this affront, a position of resistance within the context of art."

Now you can disagree with any or all of these judgments of mine; they are as subjective as anybody else's. But what in the name of Giotto is new about any of this? More to the point, where is the spirit? What spirit is suggested by Dieter Haecker's picture of what seems to be one gentleman about to set fire to the hair of another? Or of Howard Hodgkin's mainly red rectangle, in which can be discerned what look like the ends of sawn firewood-logs, which is entitled *The Green Chateau*? Or of Jean Hélion's pleasant and colourful trivialities?

"There is one thing," murmured a fellow-sufferer, "most of the pictures are so big that you can stand at the end of the room and see them all well enough to decide that you don't want a closer look." But I did take a closer look, and came out by the same door as I went in. It may be that there aren't as many as 150 pictures, as anyone by looking at the list of names and titles might suppose, but it is a collection of any interesting general tendency. But in that case, the solution would have been to wait until some such tendency made itself apparent, rather than cobble up this implausible suggestion that the new spirit in painting is only the old dead spirit exhumed in its worst, most shrouded, form.

Times Newspapers Limited, 1981.

The danger of holding trials on camera

The United States has taken an unfortunate step towards denying defendants in criminal cases the option of having what they consider to be an unprejudiced trial. A decision of the Supreme Court on Monday upheld the constitutional right of states to allow television coverage of criminal trials, even if the accused objected.

Some 21 states at present allow television access to trials, although 10 of them require the accused's consent to such coverage. Following the Supreme Court's decision, it will now be open to all states to give the go-ahead to televised reporting of trials.

The case was brought to the Supreme Court by two Miami policemen accused of burglary. At the time of their trial, Florida was conducting a one-year experiment (since made permanent) of television coverage of court proceedings. British viewers saw some of the results of that in the BBC 2 series, *Circuit II*, Miami, in 1979.

The Supreme Court failed to find any evidence that the trial of the two men had been tainted by television coverage, let alone that all television reporting of trials would be prejudicial. The decision stressed that it would always be open

to accused to appeal from a jury verdict on the grounds of prejudice caused by the presence of the cameras, or by the accounts given in broadcast news items.

Chief Justice Warren Burger, in a decision adopted by six of the eight judges (the other two agreed with the result but wrote separate opinions) said that merely because there is possible prejudice to a defendant in having the trial covered by television did not make that form of reporting unconstitutional. There might be similar prejudice in written reports, but they were not prohibited. On the surface, that reason-

ing does not seem unreasonable. But anyone who has seen the effect of the television cameras on the conduct of criminal trials would feel considerable unease.

In the Miami series, everyone clearly lay to the cameras, judges, lawyers on both sides, witnesses and the accused. The trials thus televised were significantly different in nature to what they would have been had they been reported in the printed word.

The news bulletins shown every day of a trial's highlights would have had far greater impact than do newspaper summaries of the same proceed-

ings. In short, the trials were distorted by the presence of television, and by the knowledge that excerpts were going to be shown state-wide, or even, in the case, was spectacular enough nationally.

All this could be justified if the accused were themselves happy about having their trials televised. What the Supreme Court has done is to allow the state authorities to impose television coverage over the objections of protesting accused. That cannot be good for the reputation of American justice.

Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

LONDON DIARY

Hard labour for short sharp sentences

You know how it is there early in the morning in Hampstead with the buses all lined up against the trees of the Heath: before even the dustcarts come by with plastic sacks for the dustbins? Well, we came up from Camden Town and we heard it. All around. The automatic fire.

"Remingtons" Harry said, pretty mean. And Imperials and an Adler portable. And an IBM golfball with electric carriage return.

Harry knew. He had been trying for a year to make it with a broad from the council typing pool.

The winter sun climbed in the sky, diffused and milky like old men's eyes. Typewriters clicked with menace from every window. We took cover in the cafe.

They were waiting for us, just like they said. Two of them. We sat down and one of them came over.

"What gives?" said Harry.

"We face the white bulb that is paper with no words on it," said the big one.

Harry sprang to his feet and smashed the big guy's jaw. "Speak English," he snarled. The big guy slumped in a corner, real heavy. "For the Fourth International Imitation Hemingway Competition," he said. He spat out two teeth. Seek inspiration. The words will come quick, clean and true.

Harry punched him in the stomach. "More," he said. "The facts."

"They will pick the winner from those who have followed the rules: a one-page parody of Hemingway." The big guy wiped blood.

"And you have to mention Harry's Bar. Nicely. Harry will fly the winner to his bar in Los Angeles. For dinner. For two."

Some will be funny. All will be judged. His son Jack Hemingway will preside. Ray Bradbury will help. There will be dialogue, character sketches, action scenes. Harry will keep them all.

"Time passes, my friend. The Big Ring closes on February 15. The judges wait. Let me return to my keyboard."

They left. We left. Harry knew a place. We went in. Harry ordered up two Spanish absinthes. He spent a long time staring into the bright liquid

winking in his glass, catching the reflection of the MacDonald's hamburger sign. At last he spoke.

"They're certainly doing it in earnest up here," he said.

There is good news for those who agree with Kipling that a woman is no match for a good cigar. Derek Harris, chairman of one of our leading Havana cigar importers who has just returned from the Caribbean, reports that the Cubans have finally defeated the blue mould fungus which decimated their last two tobacco harvests. Thanks to finding an effective herbicide, they are about to harvest one of the best crops for many years.

Good Havanas have been in short supply recently, although the Cubans have been doing their best to keep up supplies to Britain, one of their most prized markets.

The fruits of this year's bumper crop should be in British shops next year, but there is a catch. The cost to Cuba of eradicating the pest has meant that cigar prices will rise by about 12 per cent almost immediately, and there is the additional threat that the Chancellor will impose a sub-

stantial increase in tobacco duty in the March budget. Still, I don't suppose Lord Grade will be reduced to Woodbines.

Waning

In an opinion poll announced yesterday, Mrs Thatcher notched up second place ahead of Ayatollah Khomeini and Idi Amin, but failed to snatch the lead from Adolf Hitler.

However the Prime Minister need not lose too much sleep over the results, astonishing though they may be; they are merely the outcome of the latest annual survey by Madame Tussaud's in London to discover who are the most feared and hated figures in the world's works. The Ayatollah, who was last year's clear winner, has been toppled to fourth place.

While elevating Hitler to a pinnacle of nastiness, the voters deserted Churchill, last year's number one "hero of all time", replacing him with Supremacy. The late John Lennon has displaced Bjorn Borg, who nevertheless remains the favourite sportsman. No one, no matter how elevated, is safe from the vagaries of the Tussaud voters. Even the Queen has been knocked from her perch in fifth place by

Larry Hagman, the horrid citizen of Dallas. Fame sure is a fleeting thing.

Facade lift

One of the earliest indications that the Prime Minister and the lately deposed Leader of the Commons did not see eye to eye on every conceivable subject occurred more than a year ago when Norman gave qualified but unmistakable approval to a new scheme for offices for his fellow MPs. The building, designed by Sir Hugh Casson, would have cost an estimated £120m, and within hours an indignant Mrs Thatcher declared that the nation could not possibly afford such luxuries.

But that being so, what now happens to the buildings on the site, in Bridge Street, which will stay where they are for the foreseeable future? Although one of them, St Stephen's House, was recently taken over for use by Parliament's select committee, the remainder are either empty or let on short leases. The freehold is owned by the Crown, but the idea that they might be converted quite cheaply to serve the needs of

perhaps not only waste David Owen to stay in the Party as he's a doctor...



the area every year. If Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, is as keen on conservation and renovation as he professes, could he not persuade his Property Services Agency to get busy with scrubbing brushes and a few pots of paint?

Booked out

Public spending cuts appear to be playing havoc with our public libraries. On the few occasions that I go to my local library and find it open, I also find the assistants few and the shelves depleted. Is this, I wonder, a case for the return of private enterprise?

Before the days of universal free reading you could pay a visit to the profusion of little libraries tucked away in corners of W. H. Smith and Boots the Chemists, and pick up the books of your choice. Indeed some readers would say that the two go together.

But the Public Library Act of 1964 put an end to much of that. The subscription libraries in the chain stores, which had since the beginning of the century gradually disappeared as public libraries improved,

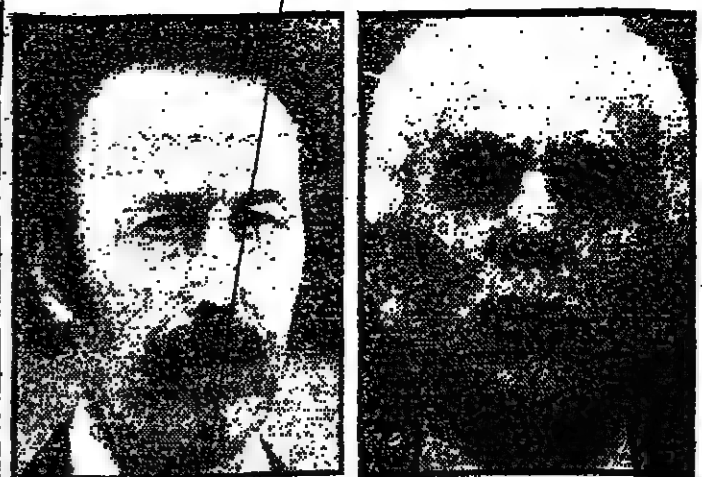
A mere handful of subscription libraries have survived. The Leeds Library, founded in 1768, with its maximum of 500 members paying £12 each a year, retains a Victorian atmosphere. Harrods has a lending library for 3,000 members paying up to £45 each a year. The splendid London Library has one million volumes and 6,500 members.

But these are mere oases in a desert of illiteracy. The Bradford Library and Literary Society closed its doors for the last time on December 1 after surviving for more than 200 years.

Under the Thatcher doctrine of self-help, perhaps the rebirth of the subscription library is already overdue.

Introducing the New Standard drama awards yesterday, Ned Sherrin managed a double-barrelled jibe at both recent political events and the National Theatre's controversial play *The Romans in Britain*. Quoting Sherrin: "Not eligible for the best comedy is *Labour Party*, which this year did for the Romans as for the Druids."

Alan Hamilton



The late President Boumedienne—Utopian hope; and President Chadli—time for concessions.

Algeria gains from facing up to reality

Two great clenched fists ripping apart the frail chain which has sought to juggle these symbols of Algeria. The hands are carved on to the face of the bulky sandstone monument which rises impressively out of the gardens running down the centre of the Boulevard Kheimmis in the heart of modern Algiers.

They epitomize to Algerians the birth or rebirth of their nation and inspire their country's foreign policy. It is a foreign policy which has frequently brought Western incomprehension and even derision in the past. It is a foreign policy which today has the very solid achievement of its credit by having enabled the release of the American hostages held by Iran.

It was Algerian understanding of how the hostages must have yearned for freedom and Algerian understanding of the Algerian understanding of the Islamic revolution in Iran which made the country possibly the only one in the world emotionally fitted to act as intermediary between two diametrically opposed nations.

The eighty-year-long bloody war of independence—which the average Frenchman still remembers as a series of atrocities—was for the Algerians an heroic struggle against a hated foreign invader.

Since independence in 1962, Algeria has not been short of problems, particularly economic ones, but there is little or no nostalgia among the people for the days of the colonial past. Rather there is an on-going pride and joy in being independent.

The result of that is that from the earliest days of nationhood Algerians made it a policy to give uncompromising support to all liberation movements. It was a support which cost the new nation dearly in esteem, especially when so much Western opinion was still shocked by the violence which had surrounded independence.

Algeria's reputation as a supporter of dissidents made it the inevitable and favourite airport destination for many hijackers. The reputation became somewhat grotesque, perhaps, as Algeria more and more spoke out for some of the more outlandish independence movements.

Since these independence movements tended to be largely against what the Algerians identified as "western colonial imperialism" a growing interest in the country developed in the Soviet block, which began to woo the regime of President Boumedienne. The wooing has gone on and has been largely with guns and other weaponry.

At the same time trade with the Soviet block remained, and still remains, at only a tiny level. The main trading partner of Algeria was the United States, with the EEC countries jointly running a good second. Despite its professed socialist tendencies, Algeria has always known where it can best get the capital it needs to achieve the economic independence it is still trying to achieve.

As yet, Algeria is not really independent. It has an external debt estimated at some \$20,000m, against which its only developed asset is its large natural gas and its small oil reserves. Between them they contribute 95 per cent of all Algerian earnings from the world. If the country is to develop fast enough to keep up

with its rapidly expanding population it will have to diversify.

This is why, since 1973, Algeria has taken the lead in pressure from the Third World countries to set up what it terms "a new international order" to change the relationship between the poor and the rich nations.

To President Boumedienne this "new order" was an attainable Utopia. Since his death two years ago a new spirit of realism has crept in. President Chadli still champions the cause of a "new order" but pending its establishment he has given clear indications that Algeria is prepared to make concessions to the existing order.

Relations with the United States have been steadily improved—not least because negotiations of the contract for selling gas to the United States are dragging on. Late last year the United States frigate Edward Macdonald paid a goodwill visit to Oran and was given a splendid welcome. Prompt and generous American aid following the El Asnam earthquake have been much appreciated by the whole population.

The Queen's visit to the country last year was also a great success, and her visit in the earthquake area was wide praise. The climate is ripe for a British trade initiative.

This is even more the case because French influence is tangibly receding, albeit very slowly.

At the same time, President Chadli has shown himself amenable to overtures from France for a more friendly relationship, as he has to neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco. Indeed the threat of open war with Morocco over the Western Sahara—which was always present in the days of Boumedienne, has receded.

There are signs, too, that the Soviet block is less welcome than it used to be. Behind this lies the selfsame spirit of independence, which dominates the national character.

Algeria has made its displeasure about the invasion of Afghanistan known to the Soviet powers. In this it has remained true to its vocation of champion of liberation causes, which has meant that Algeria has so often in the past been the chosen meeting place for settling disputes. It must be one of the only cities in the world with both a boulevard Che Guevara and an Avenue Franklin Roosevelt.

The huge, modern El Aurassi Hotel which dominates part of the city skyline, has seen peace signed between Portuguese and Angolan rebels, between the Polisario and Mauritania, between the Shah and Iraq. The country had a tradition of acting as host to settlements for some time before the hostages were taken prisoner. Some officials talk optimistically now of being able to mediate in the present war between Iran and Iraq.

What the hostage negotiations have done, however, is make the world at large believe in Algeria's ability to referee. "We did this for humanitarian reasons," an official explained after the hostage agreement was read out in the Aurassi. "All we want in return is a little respect."

Ian Murray



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IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE

The recession is slowing down, but it is not over yet. That is the clear picture which emerges from the latest set of unemployment figures and the report on the economic situation from the Confederation of British Industry. Hopes of an upturn during the current year remain distinctly fragile.

The unemployment figures are slightly less bad than might have been feared. There is a five week period before the January count for the number of unemployed. The increase in the underlying level of unemployment during that period was 103,000, little more than during the previous four weeks. The figures contain rather slight straws of hope for the Government, all of which point to the conclusion that the increase in unemployment is certainly not accelerating and may even be slowing down.

Such a conclusion would be consistent with the evidence which is beginning to emerge on the pattern of output at the end of last year. It now looks likely that the drop in national output which occurred so precipitately during the summer may have eased off at the end of the year. The CBI survey of business opinion suggests that the run-down of stocks which played

such a key role in this may now be past its worst. It is not safe to conclude from this, however, that output has now reached bottom and that it will start to pick up from now on. De-stocking is slowing down, but it is not yet over. The economy is having to make a painful adjustment to a lower level of output overall.

It makes little sense for anyone, least of all the Government, to become obsessed by the detail of just when the absolute bottom in output will be reached and when the upturn will start. Such forecasts are exceedingly difficult to get right and of little practical consequence.

What is clear is that at some point during the current year output will stabilize. It may then rise, but only gently. The increase in unemployment which has been such a feature of the past year will slow down quite markedly, although—given past performance in productivity—the total output of work must be expected to go on rising for the foreseeable future.

These are the bad sides of the economic situation. The good side is that inflation is definitely falling faster than even the Government is yet willing to recognize. It now seems probable that at some point during the

current year inflation will fall well into single figures. The underlying rate over the past six months, traditionally the best guide to trends, has already dropped to that level.

The decline in the rate of inflation is not solely the result of sterling's continued strength. Domestic costs, particularly wages, are beginning to respond to the new climate. The Government can thus reasonably hope that it is in sight of achieving a sustained fall in inflation as long as its current policies are pursued. The problem is that a continuation of a tight policy makes it relatively unlikely that there will be the sort of growth in output and living standards which governments traditionally feel they need in the years before an election.

In addition, this approach imposes severe structural strains on the economy. The manufacturing sector of industry has already been exposed to severe competition from abroad. This will worsen as long as sterling remains strong. In this situation, the Chancellor should be giving urgent attention to the need to be changing the balance of the economy so that sections such as manufacturing bear less of the burden.

COALITION TREMORS IN BONN

Three months after its clear election victory, West Germany's coalition government has still not got into its stride. The election was a vote of confidence in the coalition formula, the alliance between the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Free Democrats (FDP), and in the leadership of Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor. But it altered the balance within the coalition by significantly increasing the number of votes that went to the FDP, while only giving the SPD a marginal increase. Consequently the FDP claimed, and has received, greater influence on government policy; but that in its turn has caused resentment on the left wing of the SPD, which is itself larger in the new Bundestag. So instead of a sense of a renewal and of new horizons, there has been a feeling of malaise in Bonn for the past few months, the latest sign of which was this week's abortive attempt by the left wing of the SPD to have the defence budget reduced by 1,000 million Marks.

It is not the first time that a new German government has had initial difficulties of this sort. Four years ago, at the beginning of the last legislature, the two coalition partners had some trouble in resolving their differences; but by the end they were working well together.

This time, however, the situation is more tense than before, and there have been suggestions that the coalition might fall apart, with the FDP either forming an alliance with the Christian Democrats or going into opposition and leaving the two large parties to form a grand coalition. For the time being either of these developments seems most unlikely. The FDP has done extremely well out of its alliance with the Social Democrats—it was seen by its supporters in the election as serving as a moderate brake on leftist tendencies in the SPD—and it could jeopardize its gains by changing its tactics. Its leaders have shown no sign of wanting to get out.

The question is whether Herr Schmidt and Herr Genscher, the FDP leader, can pull the coalition together and get it working more smoothly. One of the main immediate challenges is the situation in West Berlin, where the two parties are in coalition and where the previous Mayor, Herr Dietrich Stobbe, was recently forced to resign because of a financial scandal. Berlin, the former capital, has a special significance for Germans, and it was felt to be extremely important for the coalition not to lose power there. So Dr Hans Jochen Vogel, formerly Minister of Justice in Bonn and seen as Herr Schmidt's own chosen successor,

has been installed as Mayor; and the hope is that he will be able to hold the city for the coalition in the forthcoming elections in spite of a strong challenge from the Christian Democrats.

West Germany's allies are bound to wonder whether the coalition's difficulties are likely to affect foreign policy, and particularly the decision to install the new medium-range nuclear missiles in Germany, in view of the campaign against them by the SPD left wing. There is no reason to think that they will. Herr Schmidt is firmly committed to a policy of matching Soviet weapons, if only as a basis for disarmament negotiations, and he has great experience in dealing with his own left wing. More to the point is the question whether, with President Reagan now in office in Washington, German-American relations can be raised from the low level to which they sank during the Carter administration. The Germans are strongly committed to a policy of improved relations with Eastern Europe, and they are apprehensive that a more militant policy from Washington might jeopardize that. But there is no reason to fear that they are about to become doubtful members of the alliance, and the new American Administration will secure their cooperation more easily if they recognize this.

TIME FOR THE TIN POUND

It is well that Sir Geoffrey Howe has brought the desultory old argument about whether we need a one-pound coin to an end at last; otherwise the inevitably ensuing argument about whether the Royal Mint should continue to weigh our pockets down with coins of such small value might have trodden too close on its heels. Already the pound sterling buys only half as much as the fifty-pence piece originally did in 1969; by 1983, when the proposed coin is to be issued, its purchasing power (assuming a 20 per cent inflation rate, perhaps unfairly) may be about the same as that of a two-shilling piece of twenty years ago. What we should be talking about is not the tin pound but the tin five.

Of course we already have a one-pound coin, exempt from these humiliating fluctuations. The gold sovereign, still struck today, is already worth more than 50 times its nominal value; opinions differ over whether this uniquely qualifies or disqualifies

it as a basis for a monetary system. Changes in value are not straightforward in any case. Rawdon Crawley, visiting his son's school in the 1820s in Vanity Fair, sagaciously tipped Master Blackball a sovereign to win his goodwill towards the younger boy. Rawdon was seldom flush with cash, but free with it when he had it. Jos Sedley was quite the reverse, yet even he, some 20 years earlier, had handed over half a guinea to the schoolboy George Osborne, although the latter had just ruined Jos's Hessian boots. Even in those days, such gifts must have been convertible into astronomical numbers of cream buns; nominal numbers of the equivalent of several weeks' pay for a labourer. Any comparison with the tariff at a present-day comprehensive is unreal: not even Master Blackball's sovereign could buy him a turn at Space Invaders.

It would be tempting to propose that the new coin should bring back into everyday circulation the splendid Regency

image of St. George and the dragon which Pistrucci designed in 1816 (the model for St. George was an Italian servant at a hotel in Leicester Square); it is not recorded who sat for the dragon). The fifty-pence piece successfully revived Britannia in this way. But, if as proposed, the coin is to be of the same diameter as the sovereign and yellow in colour, it is important that there should be no possibility of its being passed off as a redesigned version of the gold coin.

The two new additions to the coinage will give a depressingly ad hoc air to the range, with no less than four distinct species of coin, brown, white and yellow, disc, and oblate heptagons. The first government that really conquers inflation should mark its triumph with a comprehensive redesign of the coinage. In view of the execrably insipid design of the reverses of almost every British coin in the last fifty years, fresh images could hardly fail to be an improvement.

Criminal procedure moves

From Sir David Napley
Sir, The Philips commission on criminal procedure suggests that in place of committal for trial there be substituted an application for discharge. A majority (the ratio is not revealed) doubted on such an application "whether the magistrates need to take their decision upon the basis of oral evidence tested under cross-examination". It is hoped that neither the suggestion nor the convoluted reasoning on which it is based will be accepted.

"Magistrates", they rightly observe, "are reluctant to dismiss cases and over 2,000 or just over 2 per cent of those committed for trial are discharged in the crown court" for insufficient evidence. That figure is probably low, but means, if the average cost of a case for both sides is £750, a loss of public or private money of £1,500,000 every year and, if each case lasts approximately half a full day, wastage of four to eight years' court time, whilst congestion in some crown courts is still a matter of concern. Add that "ordered and directed acquittals in the crown court for insufficient evidence in 1978 were over 40 per cent nationally and as high as 54 per cent in one area", and it argues not for weakening, but strengthening the sifting process.

The commission rightly regrets the lack of effective scrutiny of the case by the prosecution and the defence and the failure of prosecution

witnesses "to give evidence in a satisfactory manner". They might have added that over many years the attitude of the lay magistracy to commitments has been half-hearted, dispiriting and mere routine.

It is inconsistent to assert: "so far as possible no one should be required to stand trial in the absence of good cause" whilst believing that this principle can be protected by reference alone to written statements prepared by the police. They are often unreliable, and frequently contain as positive statements of fact no more than rationalizations between the intended witness and the police officer of what the witness is assisted to recall; the unreliability of the statement can be demonstrated only by cross-examination.

Often, other facts absent from the statement can only be elicited by cross-examination, throwing a wholly different complexion on the statement, or enabling further investigation to be made in the limited time available to the defence. There are also other important aspects too lengthy to mention.

A meaningful examination of the quality of the evidence when tested by cross-examination, and committal proceedings, competently conducted, are often vital to the outcome of the ultimate trial.

Finally, committal proceedings should only be heard by those who are robust, experienced and knowledgeable enough to recognize those cases which should and should not be sent for trial. If that is achieved they should be left as they are. Yours truly, DAVID NAPLEY, Kingsley, Napley and Company, 107-115 Long Acre, WC2, January 20.

The cost of dying

From Mrs Elisabeth Goodwin
Sir, I recently helped a friend make funeral arrangements for a deceased relative and was horrified to learn that the cost of the cheapest coffin (not the funeral!) was £286. As my friend's relative was to be cremated, presumably the coffin also would be cremated?

As I approach my three score years and ten, would it not be a good investment to buy my coffin now. Yours faithfully, ELISABETH GOODWIN, Flar 3, Thelton Crossbush, Arundel, West Sussex, January 22.

Criminal attempts at the impossible

From Professor J. A. Andrews and others

Sir, When opening the debate on the Criminal Attempts Bill (Report, January 20), the Home Secretary expressed the belief that it would clarify the law, but in this he was, unfortunately, been misadvised. The issue relates to impossible attempts.

At present it is a crime to attempt or conspire to commit a crime, with one exception: People who try or plan to commit crimes are not guilty of attempt or conspiracy if it turns out that, owing to a mistake of fact on their part, the crime is impossible of commission. So (it seems) the following are untouched by the law: a person who tries to steal from a handbag that turns out to be empty; one who shoots through a skylight at what he thinks is a policeman when there is no one on the roof; a terrorist who, thinking that he is acquiring explosives, is given a substance that will not explode because of the lack of an essential ingredient; men who set up a plant for extracting cocaine illegally from a substance that turns out to have no cocaine in it.

At present, the study of the subject the Law Commission proposed that this limitation on the law should be abolished. A person whose criminal plan fails because of his mistake of fact should be liable to conviction (though, of course, he would not be guilty if what he was aiming to do was not a crime at all but only an imaginary crime). The would be criminal is morally as guilty as if the crime he had in view were possible of commission.

It is true that some attempts are not worth prosecuting, but, on any formulation, the law of attempt and conspiracy will include some trivial cases and it is impossible as a matter of drafting to leave such cases out merely because they are pretty harmless. The police do not prosecute attempts except in matters of gravity, and would be unlikely to bring charges where an attempt

is laughably inept. The Law Commission's well-drafted proposal therefore met with approval by all those who wrote upon it in the legal journals.

Almost inexplicably, the Bill now presented by the Government substantially modifies it. The Bill is vague and self-contradictory, that it is passed as it stands its effect will not be settled until after a number of expensive appeals. However, it appears from Home Office statements that the Department's intention is that the pickpocket and marksman should be convicted, but that the cocaine manufacturer and terrorist, and various other people should be exempt.

We are professors of law who naturally view the law to be clear, rational and effective. We think that the present Bill fails in the first two respects and quite possibly in the third. It falls short of minimum standards of clarity. Further, we think that it will not have the effect intended by the Home Office unless its provisions are read in a logically unsatisfactory way. In any case we much prefer both: the policy and the drafting of the Law Commission's proposal.

We hope that the present provisions will be amended, preferably on the Government's initiative, to bring them back to the Law Commission's proposals.

Yours faithfully, J. A. ANDREWS, University of Wales, D. W. ELLIOTT, University of Newcastle, EDWARD GREW, University of Leicester, BRIAN HOGAN, University of Leeds, SIDNEY PREVEZER, University of Sussex, J. C. SMITH, University of Nottingham, DONALD THOMPSON, University of Keele, GLANVILLE WILLIAMS, University of Cambridge, Jesus College, Cambridge.

Serving democracy

From Lady Bridges

Sir, While not disagreeing with Mr John Silkin (Whitehall brief, January 20) that the Civil Service is "by its nature slow to act" (p. 10), whether it is always bad thing (which may be debatable), I must beg to differ from his view that the "battle" would be between "politicians who are democratically elected and the civil servants who are not".

The process by which political candidates are elected can be and sometimes is marred by practices which are far from being democratic; while our anachronistic electoral system produces results that distort rather than reflect the will of the majority. Civil servants are not, of course, elected; but I hope Mr Silkin would agree that their appointment at all levels is as open and fair as any in the world, and that there are plenty of watchdogs ready to bark at any alleged abuse of power or failure of integrity. The selection of its most senior officers is inevitably more subjective, but there are enough checks and balances, including the preferences of min-

isters and the periodic swing of the political pendulum, to ensure the representation in its higher ranks of a wide range of views stopping short of daily of those that are either searctic or totalitarian. Writing as a former civil servant, the wife of one, and daughter of another whose greatest pride was his contribution to the introduction of the Lloyd George Insurance Act, I know for a fact that whatever its imperfections, the Civil Service contains many men and women glad to receive and put forward new ideas, and to subject them to careful constructive scrutiny.

Democracy is a much abused word today. To those with no special axe to grind it means, amongst other things, that Government should reflect the highest common factor in the opinions and aspirations of us, the people. I suggest that judged by this standard rather than solely by selection through the counting of votes, the Civil Service will be found to be at least as "democratic" as are its political masters.

Yours sincerely, RACHEL BRIDGES, Flat 5, 15 Drycote Place, SW3.

Steps to aid Zimbabwe

From the Chairman of the Wellcome Foundation

Sir, The letter from Sir Martin La Queuse (January 19) advocates a very important programme to help us within this group, have already implemented without the use of enormous resources, but will nevertheless be of great long-term benefit to Zimbabwe.

Our group has a wholly owned subsidiary which is importantly involved in the veterinary industry in Zimbabwe and was therefore well aware that the war brought about not merely a contraction in the cattle population from five million to four million, but also a restructuring of stock tanks in rural areas. Tick control, vital to the health of cattle, was virtually lost. As soon as conditions allowed our company there, Cooper (Zimbabwe) Limited, instituted in the rural areas a dipping programme for small farmers in conjunction with the African Development Fund whereby groups of farmers are brought together and retrained by our staff in dipping techniques. In 1980 was the centenary year of our group's original busi-

ness and as one of the ways of commemorating it, we inaugurated in Zimbabwe 19 bursaries, including medicine, veterinary science, agriculture and nursing. The only criteria we suggested for candidates for these bursaries were: outstanding academic achievement, leadership qualities and need. We have undertaken to award these bursaries annually for the next 10 years and hopefully they will therefore make available nearly 200 middle management trained personnel.

The essence of what we did had absolutely no strings attached: selection of candidates for the bursaries and the subsequent monitoring of progress will be made by the authorized colleges and places of learning.

There is no doubt as to the need for which Sir Martin writes and from our experience, there is no doubt that, if help is given, it is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully, A. J. SHEPPERD, Chairman, The Wellcome Foundation Ltd, The Wellcome Building, 183 Euston Road, NW1, January 23.

Labour's future

From Mr P. M. Williams

Sir, Very likely before long some "social democrats" will be outside the Labour Party and others in. Such situations have in the past usually led to bitter recriminations between those who go and those who stay, damaging the reputation and weakening the influence of both. Already these are beginning.

Yet the two groups agree, with one another far more than with the associates they will retain or acquire. They will evoke already evoking—the same symbolic figures: Hugh Gaitskell and Anthony Crosland (I write as the biographer of one and a lifelong friend of the other).

Both groups need to remember how many good causes they still both favour; to realize how badly those causes need their combined support; to resist the temptation to justify their own decisions by vilifying those of the others; to keep open lines of communication in the present and prospects of cooperation in the future. Both will face a new situation in one year, or two, or three, as the worst fears that they share come to be fulfilled or disavowed.

Each will be under pressure meanwhile to concentrate its fire on the other. The more that either group succumbs to that pressure, the more their common enemies will benefit.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP WILLIAMS, Nuffield College, Oxford, January 26.

From Professor Lord Stamp
Sir, There must be many who, while not subscribing to the political views of a social democratic party

if it were to be formed, nevertheless believe that in our democratic society it would have a vitally important part to play in meeting the challenge of, fundamentally, undemocratic extremism, and other political considerations pale into relative insignificance.

If such a party is to be formed with any chance of success it will require the promise of the widest possible financial support from all such people. In alliance with the Liberal Party it might then bring about that change in the electoral system which alone can banish the threat of extremist totalitarian government for ever.

I remain, Sir, an independent peer and also your obedient servant, STAMP, House of Lords, January 24.

From Mr Russell Johnston, MP for Inverness (Liberal)

Sir, The weekend's events, plus the very lucid interview of Mr Michael Foot by Mr Brian Walden on television, had the great merit of bringing sharply into focus the major issues about which the social democrats in the Labour Party are in disagreement with the Labour Party's official policy, as determined in conference and confirmed by its new leader on behalf of its parliamentary party.

Apart from Constitutional matters these are the mixed economy, our future in or out of Europe and collective defence (or multilateralism versus unilateralism).

Could someone please tell me what they disagree with the Liberal Party about? Yours faithfully, RUSSELL JOHNSTON, House of Commons, January 26.

Misgivings on Nationality Bill

From the General Secretary of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

Sir, I was in India when the British Nationality Bill was published. There are a number of white citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies resident in India; they will become British citizens if the Bill is passed. There are also a number of citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies of Indian descent in India, mostly people born or registered as such in East and Central Africa, and holding no other nationality: they will almost all become British overseas citizens.

Some 5,000 of them have applied for special vouchers to settle in Britain; they are having to wait for nearly five and a half years before being issued with vouchers, and the Home Office Minister, Mr Timothy Raison, in a letter to Lord Avebury written since the Bill was published, has effectively confirmed that it is the Government's intention to allow that waiting period to continue to grow.

I talked over the last three weeks to hundreds of those in India who are thus excluded and who will become British overseas citizens. The Government's intention to believe that the intended change in their nationality status will make little difference to them, because the special voucher scheme will continue, I doubtfully passed on this assurance, but it is not easy for someone who has seen the Government is going to great trouble to change their nationality status, and yet this will not affect them. It is easier for them to perceive the motive behind passing legislation to remove their right to pass any form of British citizenship to their children, even if those children are as a result born stateless.

Statelessness will not arise in India because any child born in India is an Indian citizen by birth, yet the Government is seeking to ensure that children born to British citizens temporarily resident in India are born only as Indian citizens, at the same time as it seeks in the Bill to prevent children born to Indian citizens and others temporarily resident in Britain from being born as British citizens.

It is therefore not surprising that the Indian press sees racism in the British Nationality Bill, as you report (January 20). It is not surprising that those who will become British overseas citizens feel indignation and insecurity, as I found. And it is not surprising that Britain's international reputation is being seriously damaged, in India and no doubt elsewhere, by racist nationality legislation being heaped upon racially discriminatory changes in the immigration rules.

It is only surprising that the Home Office can feel itself misunderstood. I recommend a visit to India to those Home Office ministers and officials who, you report (January 22), are "angry at what they regard as unjustified criticism". They could then do what the Government has made no attempt whatever to do: explain its proposals to those for whom its third-class citizenship is intended.

Yours faithfully, IAN MARTIN, General Secretary, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, 44 Theobalds Road, WC1, January 23.

From Mr Dick H. Pantlin

Sir, The British Nationality Bill is about to receive its second reading in the Commons, and is soon to be considered in committee. In your leader of January 15 you particu-

larly invited Parliament to look critically at the present proposal to limit citizenship by descent to the first generation of Britons born abroad. May I express what I believe to be the views of many thousands of British families working in Continental Europe, and their employers, and add my voice in support of your recommendation?

The effect of this part of the Bill should clearly be understood. Any child born outside the United Kingdom, of British parents, whether before or after the Bill becomes law, will become, at best, a "second-class" British citizen, in that, whilst he will have the privileges of British citizenship himself, he will not be able to transmit that citizenship to his children. Moreover, unless one parent happens to have been born in the United Kingdom, such child will have no automatic right to British citizenship. Thus, to take a not uncommon case, a child may have all four grandparents as British citizens born in the United Kingdom, and both parents also British citizens (though born outside the United Kingdom) and yet, if born outside that United Kingdom himself, that child will not have the right to British citizenship by descent. Neither would that child be entitled to citizenship by registration except in the very limited circumstances contemplated in clause 3 of the Bill.

The Bill will therefore discourage many British parents from taking employment abroad, and there will surely be a diminishing number prepared even to accept a temporary move abroad since children born there will either be "second-class" British citizens or not be entitled to British citizenship.

Whether or not this proposal is consistent with the freedoms of movement guaranteed by the EEC, it is my view that it will seriously disadvantage many British families which, to quote the White Paper, "maintain strong connections with this country, though spending a great part, or all, of their lives abroad".

I believe that justice would be done if citizenship by descent were to be granted (a) automatically to the second generation born abroad, and (b) to subsequent generations, if there is still a close connection with the United Kingdom. This connection should be defined with reference to the family's cultural and educational background and aspiration; it should not be made dependent upon the parent's conditions of employment, and even on the actual place of recruitment. The present proposal would exclude the dependents of the self-employed, and many working for intentionally limited periods in companies, universities, etc. not connected with the United Kingdom, in order to improve their qualifications.

The position of United Kingdom citizens already born abroad, under existing laws, should also be reconsidered. Surely it is unfair to deprive them of the full rights of United Kingdom citizenship, which they presently enjoy, and which include the right to transmit citizenship to their children. There should also, as you so rightly suggest, be adequate rights of appeal against decisions of the Home Secretary.

Yours faithfully, DICK H. PANTLIN, Vice-President, Council of British Chambers of Commerce in Continental Europe, Avenue de Mercure 11, 1180 Uccle, Brussels.

The RAF way

From Mr Tom Freer

Sir, The letter from your correspondent Mr P. R. C. Barthropp (January 24) does the Royal Air Force less than justice. I, too, was one of the returning prisoners of war who were "packed 27 strong in Lancasters and flown from Brussels to an airfield near Aylesbury", but my recollection of it is not the same as his.

Having been accustomed to the many "longueurs" of transit camps, etc., during my previous five years of service, I was impressed that this journey was organized for us with admirable speed, precision and consideration: and it was accomplished against a background of almost total European confusion, this being the last week of the war before VE day.

The time taken from our discovery by a British armoured patrol on a German farm near Lubek to our being at home with our families was only four days, which makes the return journey of the United States hostages seem slow indeed.

I remember no delousing, and the shortage of telephones was skillfully circumvented by assigning to each of us, as we walked away from the Lancaster, a gaiter from the WAAF to take down and post our telegrams. The "slow train" to Cosford took no more than a few hours, and our stay there was no longer than the minimum for fitting us out with clean clothes, ration books and a railway warrant home.

Mr Barthropp implies that, compared with the returning United States hostages our treatment was tough: I found it to be touchingly simple, expeditious and direct. Yours faithfully, TOM FREER, 1 Parkside Avenue, Wimbeldon Common, SW19, January 24.

From Mr J. C. W. Bushell

Sir, It is certainly true, as Mr Barthropp says (January 24), that the circumstances in which RAF prisoners of war were returned to the United Kingdom in 1945 were less than heroic. Perhaps one trouble was that at that time no RAF doctor mentioned to us, as the State Department Medical Director is reported as applying to the hostages, the danger of the "post-traumatic stress syndrome".

Still, all is not lost. Should the Ministry of Defence finally decide to refund our POW pay deduction (on account of facilities allegedly provided by our Luftwaffe hosts), that in itself should be a traumatic experience to test those of us who survive.

Yours faithfully, J. C. W. BUSHELL, 19 Bradbourne Street, SW6, January 25.

English Leyland

From Mr G. M. Smiles

Sir, Your report of January 14 may perhaps have misled people into believing that the industrial tribunal at Leeds gave an authoritative ruling that British Leyland was guilty of indirect racial discrimination because of the way in which it insisted that people applying for labouring jobs filled in their application forms.

May I make it clear that BL before the hearing had conceded that what had happened constituted this kind of discrimination? The tribunal therefore never considered this particular issue and the order declaring discrimination was made by consent.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE SMILES, Regional Chairman, Regional Office of the Industrial Tribunals, Minerva House, 29 East Parade, Leeds.

Case for economy?

From Mr C. J. Wise

Sir, Members of Parliament must be dangerously ill-informed. Mr Philip Holland (January 19) writes that the Department of Employment has over 22,000 civil servants employed in public relations and the issue of work permits.

It is obviously unaware that the majority are, in fact, working very hard in hundreds of local unemployment benefit offices serving "clients": his government has helped to produce. There may be a case for transferring this work to the Department of Health and Social Security and thus Mr Holland's argument would again hold water.

However, it would become an MP to get his facts right before grandly dismissing an entire government department.

Yours faithfully, C. J. WISE, 72 Farnborough, Netherfield, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, January 19.

Voice from the past

From the Reverend J. M. Yates
Sir, Perhaps one more Briton story? One morning at Mons were doing rifle drill by numbers—1, 2, 3, 1—and my luckless neighbour, concentrating on the movements rather than the counting aloud, was doubted off to the guardroom for "idle shouting on parade".

Yours faithfully, JOHN YATES, The Rectory, Mells, Frome, Somerset.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Alberta set to turn off the taps, page 19

Job losses show no sign of easing, page 18

Stock markets	
FT Ind 467.4, up 5.5	FT Gilt 69.04, up 0.18
Sterling	
\$2.4075, down 118 pts	Index 81.2, up 0.2
Dollar	
DM 88.0, up 0.2	DM 2.0720, up 178 pts
Gold	
\$517.50, down \$12	
Money	
3 mth sterling 14 1/4-13 1/4	3 mth Euro \$ 18 1/4-18 1/4
6 mth Euro \$ 17 1/4-17 1/4	

Curbs on commodities and gold in Bahrain

Bahrain, whose relatively liberal approach to offshore business has made it the financial centre of the Gulf, is to introduce tighter controls on gold and commodity brokers.

Mr Ibrahim Abdul-Karim, Bahrain's finance minister, said yesterday that the new regulations could include capital requirements, financial guarantees from head offices, and the quality of staff.

The new regulations will be drawn up and enforced by the Bahrain Monetary Agency, the island state's central bank. Its powers can be extended to all financial institutions, although so far they have mainly applied only to banks.

In future, commodity brokers will have to be approved by the agency, and existing companies will have to meet the same requirements.

ATV diversification

ATV, the Midlands commercial television company, will lodge proposals to diversify its shareholdings by the end of the week. The company, which is owned by Lord Grade's ACC, has been told by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to reduce its shareholding to 51 per cent and find a new name in order to retain its franchise.

£10m investment trust

New Darien Oil Trust, a £10m investment trust, is to come to the market next month through an offer for subscription of 10 million shares at 100p. Clients of Phillips & Drew, brokers to the issue, will apply for five million shares.

Chinese accountancy

Coopers & Lybrand, the international accounting firm, has been authorized to work in China under regulations introduced in November last year. It will be the first foreign accountancy group to do so.

MFI profits cut

MFI, the cut-price furniture retailer, saw its interim pre-tax profits fall more than a third to £4.9m. This was despite a boost in sales from £56m to £90m, largely from the acquisition of the Status Discount chain last year.

£60m road savings

Savings of up to £60m a year for the United Kingdom road transport industry—lorries, vans, and buses—could be achieved by fitting unbreakable external mirrors, according to Spafax, the industrial components group.

Italian steel posts

The Italian Government has begun to tackle the crisis in the public sector steel industry by appointing Signor Mario Costa as chairman, and Signor Sergio Magliola as managing director, of Italsider, Italy's biggest steel-maker.

Wall Street higher

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 10.58 points up at 949.49. The S-DNR was 1.2846. The £ was 0.521209.

Industry outlook still bleak despite slowdown of recession

Patricia Tiedall
Management Correspondent

Prospects for manufacturing industry continue to be very bleak according to the Confederation of British Industry's interpretation yesterday of its latest business trends survey.

Mr James Clesminson, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said: "Our only consolation from the present survey is that things are getting worse more slowly."

The survey confirms that a definite easing in the rate of decline has occurred in the last few months.

However, Mr Clesminson said that company orders, output and employment were all worse than they were when the last survey—described as the "blackest ever"—was carried out in October. The position is expected to deteriorate further during the next quarter.

CBI leaders are still trying to convince government ministers of the damage which the high sterling exchange rate is causing to industry. They are continuing to plead for a further cut in minimum lending rate. They take no comfort from the survey findings which show that the proportion of manufacturers who are pessimistic about business prospects has dropped from 58 per cent in October to 33 per cent.

Investment continues to be "very weak indeed", said Mr Clesminson. Since there is an average delay of 12 months between authorization for investment and expenditure, the impact of the recession inevitably will continue well into 1982. The CBI forecasts a fall of 15 per cent in manufacturing investment during 1981, with the decline continuing at the same rate to the middle of 1982.

Uncertainty about demand and inadequate return on new investment are the two main reasons given by manufacturers for curbing their capital expenditure.

Mr Clesminson says it is not surprising that investment intentions remain at such a low level since real profitability (excluding North Sea oil business) is expected to fall to 2 per cent or less during 1981.

While some sectors have improved, order books generally remain weak, with 75 per cent of manufacturers assessing their



Mr Clesminson: investment still 'very weak'.

workload at below normal levels.

There has been no change in the 84 per cent of companies who report that they are working below capacity. This represents the highest incidence of below-capacity working since the survey was introduced in 1958. However it represents the first check to the rapid spread of under-utilization since July 1979.

While stocks are continuing to be reduced at a rapid rate, 32 per cent of companies still consider their stocks of finished goods to be more than adequate.

"I had hoped there might have been a somewhat better figure on 'destocking', Mr Clesminson said. "We must recognize that there are to be further sharp reductions in stock and that the bottom of the recession will not be signalled until this occurs."

Stock reductions are being achieved through price cuts. Many manufacturers are holding price increases well below the growth in costs, with a consequent squeeze on profitability. Export orders and deliveries have weakened but expectations for the next four months suggest smaller falls.

Despite effectively stable export prices, 81 per cent of exporters still quote prices relative to those of overseas competitors as a constraint to new contracts.

UK urged to sign computer convention

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

The British Computer Society has called on the Government to declare its intention to be a party to the Council of Europe's "Convention on the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data".

The council is due to open the convention for signature today. Norway, Sweden, Denmark and France have each enacted legislation and are ready to sign.

Austria, Germany and Luxembourg are in a position to sign and are considering their position. The remaining countries, including Britain, have not yet enacted legislation in this area.

The convention sets a basis for introducing parallel legislation throughout Europe to protect the privacy of personal information in the age of computer-based information systems.

The British Computer Society said that Britain had a well-deserved reputation as a development and application of computer technology. But it had fallen behind in establishing control and direction over the way personal information was used. This could inhibit the continued development of computing techniques in support of economic, social and political development.

"In particular, there is an increasing amount of data flowing between countries, and the United Kingdom must show itself willing and able to co-operate with its international partners in such activities," it said.

"We must be able to demonstrate to our European partners that we are able to protect their data when it is handled in the United Kingdom."

The Government's Data Protection Committee had made recommendations on this in December 1978, but no action had been taken. "The initiative of the Council of Europe presents an opportunity for the United Kingdom to join the international movement of data protection, and the British Computer Society recommends that the United Kingdom declares its intention to sign the convention," the society said.

This would mean that controls would have to be introduced in the management of data by user organizations to ensure its protection. The society was ready to establish the necessary standards and to set up a national certification scheme to provide these controls.

Mr Reagan signals big cut in taxes

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Jan 26

Big tax cuts will be announced by President Reagan in an economic policy message to the Congress on February 17 or 18, according to Mr Donald Regan, Secretary of the Treasury.

He said the Administration's economic strategy would consist of cutting taxes, sharply reducing public spending and securing stable monetary policies. It would be a "bold, innovative economic plan", he told the appropriations committee of the Senate today.

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, appeared to support the new Administration's plans in testimony before the same committee today. He stressed that "I was not at all surprised to see the Administration's plan to reduce inflation and secure economic growth."

To this end across-the-board business and individual tax cuts are planned. Capital gains taxes will be reduced and greater depreciation allowances for business are a certainty.

Office of Management, also stressed to the senators that the Administration intends to curb government regulation of business. As a first step the White House intends to eliminate oil price controls, a move that will swiftly see a rise of about 12 cents on a gallon of petrol from the present price of about \$1.40.

Oil price controls are already being phased-out and they were due to end by September. Decontrol is seen as raising prices to the consumer to world market levels and so strengthening conservation, while at the same time offering better income incentives to domestic oil producers.

Mr Reagan asserted that the Administration has no doubt at all that providing incentives to business and individuals to work harder will swiftly reduce inflation and secure economic growth.

Mr Reagan said the Budget would be balanced within two years, by the 1983 fiscal year, and that there would be significant budget surplus in four years. The Treasury said today that the Budget deficit in December narrowed to \$3,300m from \$3,575m in November.

The President said across-the-board tax cuts were more effective than selective ones as the markets are far better in allocating resources than the government. He expected between one half and two thirds of the income tax cuts to go into savings and that under consideration are plans to increase the amount of interest on savings that people can earn free of tax.

Mr Stockman said that current fiscal year government spending was running at 23.3 per cent of gross national product and the Administration was determined to reduce the level in the next few years to 20 per cent.

Mr Reagan said the Budget would be balanced within two years, by the 1983 fiscal year, and that there would be significant budget surplus in four years. The Treasury said today that the Budget deficit in December narrowed to \$3,300m from \$3,575m in November.

Mr Volcker gave warning that tax cuts not matched by spending cuts could prove to

be highly inflationary. Mr Reagan said such precise matching was not contemplated, but that the Administration viewed tax cuts and spending cuts as part of a combined economic strategy with both being essential to restore American economic health.

"I do not think we can sustain \$60,000m (£25,000m) and \$70,000m budget deficits year after year without ruining this country," the President said.

Mr Stockman told the committee that the new programme of tax cuts, spending cuts, stable monetary policies and regulatory reform, would be announced clearly to send unambiguous signals throughout the United States and world economy of a major change in the principles and the framework of financial and economic policy.

The officials asserted that a close relationship was being fostered between the administration and the Central Bank and that fiscal policies would fully support the anti-inflation policies of the Federal Reserve.

Bank union says 8pc is 'derisory'

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The threat of possible industrial action by 16,500 staff in Trustee Savings Bank branches and offices emerged yesterday when management suggested union negotiators with an 8 per cent offer in response to a claim of more than 20 per cent.

Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU) negotiators rejected the offer. Talks will be resumed on February 20 after a management board meeting the previous day to consider whether to improve on the 8 per cent.

Last night, however, Mr William Whitman, the union's assistant secretary with responsibility for TSB, where the union has a large majority in membership, said: "The offer is so derisory that although our normal recourse is to circumvent it, we are going to arbitration."

The question however, of whether any proposal for industrial action might be put to members at TSB, which the union claims enjoyed an undoubted 9 to 1 vote in favour of pre-tax profits last year, would undoubtedly await the outcome of the resumed negotiations next month.

The talks come at a sensitive time however, because the banking unions are due to open talks on a closely similar claim with the Federation of London clearing banks on Thursday.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of BIFU, which represents 70,000 of the 200,000 on the staffs of the English clearing banks, said last night that it would be "ludicrous" if the union was to receive a similar offer from the employers on Thursday.



Mr Leif Mills: Single-figure offer "just not on".

of the resumed negotiations next month.

The claim at TSB also embraces a one-hour reduction in the working week to 35 hours, and a continuation of the company's Christmas bonus payment. The company was prepared to concede the latter point but not a reduction in hours.

It believed its offer was a reasonable one, given the general economic climate, the financial objectives of the bank and the current level of increases in the public and private sector.

Call to ease HP controls on vehicles

By Roman Eisenstein

Mr John Little, chairman of the Finance Houses Association, has called for a relaxation of credit controls on sales of cars. Since December 1973, buyers of private cars on hire purchase contracts have had to pay one third deposit and repay the debt within two years.

Speaking at the association's annual dinner he said that "no clear public statement has ever been made on why private cars should be singled out for such extraordinary treatment."

Mr Little suggested that term controls on private cars could be amended to allow a year's deposit with a three-year repayment. This would help the motor industry and car component manufacturers.

Mr Little, who is also chairman of Lloyds and Scotts, called for equal status for finance houses and banks under the 1979 Banking Act. While the Bank of England had said that the differences between the two were merely based on the range of facilities offered and not on financial standing or financial strength, "there has been evidence that the draftsmen of some recent legislation have read a different interpretation into the Act."

Little said high interest rates were having particularly bad effects on small companies. He welcomed recent cuts in interest rates but said that further reductions were essential before a "real lasting benefit" could be felt.

Pointing to official efforts to control the money supply, Mr Little said finance houses were in no way responsible for excessive growth.

Mr Nassar may make Inveresk counterbid

By Michael Prest

Mr Edward Nassar, the international businessman, who holds 14 per cent of Inveresk, the troubled papermaker, said yesterday that he was considering a counterbid to the £7.1m offer from Georgia-Pacific Corporation of Portland, Oregon, which makes and distributes forest products and has oil and natural gas interests.

Speaking from his home in Lausanne, Switzerland, Mr Nassar said that he was looking at three options: accepting the Georgia-Pacific offer, keeping a minority stake or increasing it, and bidding for the whole of Inveresk.

Georgia-Pacific's terms, revealed last week as shares in Georgia-Pacific, cash or a combination, equivalent to 35 an Inveresk share. Mr Nassar said: "I honestly think it is very cheap."

He complained that shareholders were being kept in the dark. "I feel we should be given much more information."

In 1979 Inveresk made a pre-tax profit of £526,000. But in the first half of last year it lost £1.5m, and a preacquisition of the Georgia-Pacific offer is that

1980 losses are not more than £7m.

Mr Nassar said: "I don't think it is as bad as that. They have got a new plant in Scotland which surely can be put right. The company is backed by a lot of property." In the last accounts Inveresk's investment properties were valued at £8.5m.

Mr Nassar, who has interests in five countries, suggested that the property interests could be separated from papermaking. He said: "If the papermaking were better managed, both parts could be profitable."

But Mr Nassar said that he was unlikely to make a move until he had seen the full offer document, due to be published in a few weeks' time. Mr Tom Corrigan, chairman of Inveresk, said he had heard nothing from Mr Nassar.

Georgia-Pacific's terms in 1979 were \$5,200m (£2,157m) per share. Capitalization is around \$2,500m.

Mr Nassar is confident that he can raise the finance for a bid. But he emphasizes that discussions are still in the preliminary stage, and did not say where the money would come from.

Chemical industry faces overtime ban

A move to ban overtime throughout the chemical industry to counter job cuts and other plant closures came yesterday from members of the General and Municipal Workers Union.

The decision now goes to the union's national executive who are almost certain to give it their backing.

A two-day conference of delegates representing 100,000 chemical workers wants the union to seek talks with other unions in the industry to persuade them to follow their lead.

This could affect 340 chemical companies in all divisions from plastics to soap powders. The largest employer is ICI, which is already seeking substantial cutbacks in staff.

Mr David Warburton, the union's national organiser for the industry, said members who took industrial action to resist enforced redundancies would get official backing.

He said many companies were using the recession as an excuse to cut deeper into the labour force.

Oilmen take a swing at the Royal and Ancient

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club, at St Andrews, Fife, has been invited in an area license to Premier Consolidated Oilfields, an independent exploration company, to search for onshore oil and gas.

But the Royal and Ancient's golfers need be neither dismayed at the prospect of tangle-tail Texas invading their links with theodolites and drilling rigs nor secretly delighted at the prospect of a potential gusher on the 18th.

For a start, the exploration licence allows only very limited drilling—down to 350 metres—and is essentially confined to seismic work. The permission of landowners is required for any exploration, even if it is only testing the underlying geology from the surface, is permitted, and planning consents also have to be acquired from local authorities.

But perhaps more importantly, the St Andrews area is not the sector of the licensed ground in which Premier is most interested. Its exploration experts reckon that the coast along the Firth of Forth is the most likely to possess the underlying anticline structure which stands the best chance of containing oil or gas. Another oil group already has a production licence to drill on the other side of the bay.

Exploration, however, is an unpredictable science and as a result the Department of Energy suggests that the ideal place to site a relatively flat, clear of obstruction, and with a hole already started.

Altogether eight onshore exploration licences were awarded by the Department of Energy in 1979. Among them are parts of North Yorkshire and Humbershire, including some beautiful countryside on the coast near Whitby.

Mr John Woodrow, Amoco, among the licence holders.

Interest in onshore exploration has increased greatly since British Gas discovered a second reservoir at Wytham Farm, Dorset, where it has confirmed a field the size of smaller accumulations in the North Sea.

Even relatively small finds, at oil prices of \$39 a barrel, prove commercially. The Royal and Ancient, however, and its golfers, can sleep easily.

Nicholas Hirst

PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
Amal power	7p to 73p	Aerco	£3 to £15 1/2
Elec Hlgs	6p to 62p	Audiotape	12p to 32p
Electronics	35p to 663p	East Dags	5p to 84p
Euromark Int	15p to 246p	Hammerley	6p to 160p
	10p to 105p	Lockwoods Fds	2p to 32p
Falls			
Kode Int	15p to 268p		
Magnet & Stms	12p to 124p		
Renwick Corp	8p to 85p		
Richmond Wall	4p to 28p		
Royal Wores	15p to 220p		
MFI W'hes	11p to 52p		
R. Priest	7p to 45p		
Rand Mine Prop	20p to 240p		
Swiss Rock	20p to 200p		
Transvaal Cons	12p to 117p		

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	sells	buys	sells
Australia \$	2.12	Norway Kr	13.32
Austria Sch	36.75	Portugal Esc	135.00
Belgium Fr	82.25	South Africa Rd	2.13
Canada \$	2.93	Spain Ptas	200.00
Denmark Kr	15.78	Sweden Kr	11.28
Finland Mk	9.90	Switzerland Fr	4.65
France Fr	11.80	USA \$	2.47
Germany DM	5.13	Yugoslavia Dnr	86.00
Greece Dr	123.00		
Hongkong \$	12.95		
Ireland £	1.36		
Italy Lit	2450.00		
Japan Yen	513.00		
Netherlands Gld	5.54		

Rowland ally for Sir Hugh Fraser at crucial meeting

By Philip Robinson

The crucial meeting of the 15 directors of the House of Fraser this morning, at which Sir Hugh expects a boardroom coup to vote him out as chairman, will be attended by Mr Rowland "Tiny" Rowland, his new ally.

It is understood that this will be one of the few Fraser board meetings which Mr Rowland has attended in person since he was deposed as non-executive deputy chairman of Britain's largest stores group by Professor Roland Smith last August. Lord Duncan Sandys, the other Lomro nominee, will be represented by Mr Paul Spicer, a fellow Lomro director.

The new friendship between Sir Hugh and Mr Rowland—ex loggishmen until last Thursday when they agreed that public panic costing shareholders an estimated £1m had been a misunderstanding—represents a commanding force in terms of shareholding.

Together they can influence 33.5 per cent of the total Fraser equity and it is estimated that personal loyalty from smaller shareholders to the Fraser family could give them a further 10 per cent.

Immediately after the reconciliation, Mr Spicer said that Lomro would now back Sir Hugh as chairman and wanted to work together in the best interests of the House of Fraser.



Mr "Tiny" Rowland: a rare attendance.

today, it is likely that there will be another special shareholders' meeting to fight out the matter in an American-style proxy battle.

Twice in the past seven months, Sir Hugh has been victorious by a handsome majority in fending off Lomro's public attacks. It is reckoned in the City that the two are virtually unstoppable now that they have joined forces.

But if Sir Hugh and Mr Rowland are reconciled, there are dark rumblings from some of the pension funds and insurance companies whose holdings in Fraser account for about 40 per cent of the total equity, and whose combined stakes are worth £72m.

HOUSE OF FRASER: THE LARGEST SHAREHOLDERS

Holder	percentage of total equity	Holder	percentage of total equity
Lomro	29.39	Midland Bank Trust	1.31
Fraser Trusts	3.54	Post Office Pension Fund	1.58
National Coal Board		Robert Fleming Nominees	1.01
Pension Fund	2.72	(major banks)	
British Rail Pension Fund	1.57	Clydesdale Bank head	0.88
Legal & General Assurance	1.83	office nominees	
		Prudential Corporation	0.84

Pension Funds took place before last Tuesday's special shareholders' meeting, at which it was understood that a discussion was expressed over Fraser.

Mr Hugh Jenkins, director-general of the National Coal Board Pension Fund, is understood to be heading a number of funds wishing to meet members of the Fraser board.

Sir Hugh says he has been contacted by the Post Office Pension Fund and the Lucas Works Pension Trust, owners of 533,360 shares.

is really trying to organize it." Mr Jenkins was unavailable for comment.

At least one institution, British Rail, has made it clear to the Fraser board that it was "uncomfortable" at giving support to Sir Hugh.

It is understood that a number of pension funds gave qualified support in an attempt to fend off Lomro, but said they were not happy with the running of the company.

Most believe that there is no quick cure for Fraser and to blame one man by dismissing him is not the answer. Opinion is divided on whether Sir Hugh should go.

Few feel that S. G. Warburg, the group's merchant bankers whose future is also up for discussion today should be dismissed. One fund manager said: "Clearly changes are needed at Fraser, and Warburg's have been in long enough to know what is happening and have assessed what is best for the company. To change advisers now would merely delay the timing of the changes needed."

The insurance company shareholders say they are watching the situation closely. Meanwhile, today's meeting could create a problem for Rowland—Sir Hugh is due to resume the chairmanship of the Fraser subsidiary at

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Inchcape makes hay in the Far East

Inchcape matched market hopes with interim profits up by more than a quarter on £39.1m. But what took the gilt off the gingerbread—and left the shares 12p lower at 428p—was the absence of an expected dividend increase and dark hints about the effects of recession in the second-half, bearing in mind that with December year-ends for its overseas subsidiaries, Inchcape is talking with the benefit of hindsight the market was clearly not prepared to ignore the point.

Meanwhile Inchcape's tax charge up from £7.7m to a more normal £17.2m speaks volumes about the geographical pattern of economic conditions. Profits from the low-tax United Kingdom and Middle East areas have been evaporating to be replaced by booming returns from the harsher tax regimes of South East Asia and the Far East.

Overall profits from the Pacific basin have increased their share of the total from just over half last time to close on three-quarters particularly strongly. In stark contrast Inchcape's Mann Egerton motor subsidiary in the United Kingdom has plunged from a pretax profit of £1.4m to a loss of £664,000 in the face of weak demand and big losses in Mann Egerton Furniture.

It is this sort of experience presumably which has encouraged caution on the dividend front although it must be a fair bet that Inchcape will make up the ground with a 10 per cent increase for the year at the final stage.

Despite the warnings profits still seem likely to show a sound gain to around £75m from last time's £65.6m.

This prospect implying a yield of 6.7 per cent and a fully-taxed p/e ratio of over 11 will do little for the share rating in the short-term. But it may not be too many months before institutional buying on further recovery hopes enlivens the picture.

Reed International Remaining on a low base

Reed International's 1980/81 period will be badly distorted by the experience of the first quarter in which industrial troubles, mainly in the publishing business, cost profits around £12m.

In the second quarter it returned to a base, albeit one that was well down on last year, and that trend continued into the third quarter with profits at £15m still way adrift of the £30m earned in the comparable period a year ago.

The pattern remains fairly constant—in the United Kingdom at the moment the recession is fierce in the newspaper business where Reed has undertaken a heavy closure programme.

Publications, though, had a good quarter, although advertising revenues are beginning to slip, and paint and building products and packaging are all proving resilient even though volumes are down.

Leaving aside the deflationary effect of converting overseas profits into sterling, the Quebec papermill continues reasonably well; the recession, though, is beginning to hurt in Europe while the United States wellcoverings business has more problems.

The question for the shares of course is whether Reed will hold the dividend (it did at the interim) even though it may well be uncovered on a current cost basis.

The chances are on the back of a strong balance sheet that it will unless the trading situation deteriorates markedly in the final quarter—two reasons, then, for thinking the shares have recovery potential at 183p yielding 10.1 per cent and selling at perhaps 51 times likely earnings.

MFI Cutting back

Investor confidence in MFI as a glamour stock vanished yesterday when it reported interim profits of only £4.9m, £3.1m down on last year and considerably below expectations.

The market had seemed prepared to give MFI a second chance following the £30m Status Discount merger and the revised profits forecast last year, but the 11p fall to 52p in the share price yesterday ended all that.

When should the institutions intervene?

To many outsiders Sir Hugh Fraser and Lord Rowland "Tiny" Rowland seem to have been carrying on a private feud in the incongruous public battle-ground of the House of Fraser. Important issues about the running of the department stores group—whose record in the last few years has hardly impressed the City—appear to have become mixed up in bitter personal differences which may work to the detriment of the long-term health of Fraser and the interests of other shareholders.

Last week's dramatic eleventh hour reconciliation in Scotland between Sir Hugh and Mr Rowland, now back on the same side fighting off a possible coup from other directors to get rid of Sir Hugh as chairman, has only served to heighten the suspicion that House of Fraser's future lies in the hands of two very powerful men whose motives for their actions are far from clear.

Certainly, that seems to be the conclusion of Fraser's financial advisers, merchant bankers Cazenove, who seem to be as bemused as anyone about what exactly is going on at Fraser.

Previous boardroom wrangles like this have usually stung the investing institutions into action. But during all the brouhaha of the past year or more the institutions, who collectively speak for more than 35 per cent of the shares, have remained curiously silent. They have presumably preferred to use the opportunity of the extraordinary general meetings to show that while they are no great fans of House of Fraser management they have not been convinced by Mr Rowland's arguments.

There is another interpretation. This is that they have been using Warburg and Cazenove as sounding boards about what is actually going on, but have not wanted to upset the applicant because of widespread expectations that Lombro would eventually use its near 30 per cent holding as the springboard for a full bid, which would give them handsome capital gains.

Only in the last few days have the institutions, through their investment protection committees started to involve themselves more directly, yet again leaving them open to the criticism that they come on to the scene far too late in the day to be really effective.

The precise role of the institutions in industrial management is probably still as ill-defined as ever. In part, that is their own fault, since most of the institutions' activities are shrouded in secrecy. In many cases that is rightly so, since to come out

Ronald Pullen

When should the institutions intervene?

into the open and announce that they were taking a closer interest in any particular company could easily undermine confidence in it. But it is still fair to conclude that the balance between power and accountability is imperfectly understood both within the institutions and within industrial companies.

Critics say that in the past year the issue of dawn raids has shown the institutions in a bad light. When they have been approached for shares in such circumstances their professional interest in the long-term future of a company seems often to have given way to a compelling desire for short-term gain.

Both the Wilson Committee's report and recent speeches by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary, have made it clear how the official view has changed, with the investing institutions left in no doubt that they must take a closer strategic interest in industrial performance.

The debate over the right and proper role of the institutions in industrial management has been an enduring one in the City for well over a decade. Before that, fund managers tended to be much less confident of their ability to assess company performance, although the Prudential always prided itself, even before the war, on its behind-the-scenes influence.

But it was not until the early 1970s that there were moves to put the links between the users and providers of capital on a more formal footing. The background to this was a rapid growth in the financial power of the institutions, the disbanding of the old Industrial Reorganisation Corporation (which had kept a watching brief on vulnerable sectors of the economy) and a series of spectacular crashes like those of Rolls-Royce and Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, which raised important questions about company management.

The catalyst was the Bank of England, which despite heated opposition from some of the institutions set up the Institutional Shareholders Committee. Institutions, however, continued to believe that their primary skills lay in investing and that they had little expertise in industrial management, so that particular initiative withered away. They argued that their main responsibility was to their investors, for whom as trustees they could not take the sort of risks inherent in the closer relationship with industry envisaged at the time.

Since then much of the work of the individual protection committees has been routine, dealing with changes in matters directly affecting them as shareholders, such as alterations to articles of association or in-

Joan Best discusses the growing row over Canada's energy policy

Alberta prepares to turn the taps off

Ottawa

In a little over a month Alberta will start to turn off the oil taps to the rest of Canada—an act which will set up the already bitter row between the federal government and this mineral-rich province over energy policy and, even more important, the balance of political power.

Despite the barrier which it has taken from opposition members of parliament, provincial politicians in the Canadian West and the oil industry, the federal government's national energy programme—the immediate cause of all the fuss—looks like staying in.

"We do not intend to back off from these policies," Mr Mark Lalonde, the energy minister, told an opposition questioner, in the Commons recently. "We are determined to achieve these goals and we will."

The goals are: "Canadianization" of the oil and natural gas industry; substitution of alternate forms of energy, including gas, for oil; and energy self-sufficiency by 1990.

It was against this backdrop that the federal government unveiled last October—simultaneously with the federal budget—that the policy would have a rocky ride and that it could be fulfilled, if at all, only at the cost of added strains on national unity.

It immediately added fresh impetus to the controversy surrounding Canadian constitutional reform. Control over resources is one of the issues at stake in this dispute, which involves the federal government's unilateral move—opposed by eight of the 10 provinces—to "patriate" the British North America Act from Westminster.

Alberta is prominent among the provinces opposing the constitutional resolution, which is now before a parliamentary committee.

The part of the federal energy package which most enraged Alberta was a provision for new production taxes on gas and on the net revenues of both oil and gas companies, calculated to enrich the federal treasury by 11,700m Canadian dollars (about £4,200m) by the end of the 1983-84 financial year.

Mr Peter Lougheed, the Alberta premier, had given warning earlier that an export tax on gas would be tantamount to a "declaration of war" against his province by the federal government. In the



A huge excavating machine at work in the Athabasca oil sand field at Fort McMurray, Alberta: the province claims that proposed oil exports would still leave the price of domestically produced oil too far behind the prevailing world price.

Alberta was far from satisfied with this, since it will leave the price of a barrel of oil at only \$34 in 1983, well below even the present world price of close to \$50 a barrel. Federal policy for some years has been to keep Canadian oil prices artificially low, to help the competitive position of the country's industry.

Mr Lougheed's response to the national energy programme was an accusation that the federal government had "walked into our home and occupied the living room" and the decision to cut oil production.

Output is to be cut by 180,000 barrels a day, or about a fifth, against his province by the March 1. Alberta has said that it will not proceed with the reduction if there is evidence that it would cause serious oil shortages, but at present it shows every intention of going ahead.

Mr Lougheed has also promised to cancel the cuts if the federal government agrees to negotiate a new and fairer arrangement on petroleum pricing.

Both sides in the dispute have indicated that they are prepared to reopen negotiations and both have good reason to try to reach a settlement. Apart from the absurdity of trying to carry out a national energy policy while at loggerheads with the key producing province, the federal regime must view with alarm the immediate prospect of an oil reduction by Alberta.

If it decided to make up the full 180,000-barrel daily deficit by buying on the world spot market, the federal government could end up spending at least \$52,500m a year.

As for Alberta, despite its sizable mineral wealth and its treasury overflowing with petrodollars—even at the ridiculously low price per barrel obtaining in Canada—it can ill-afford the loss in income and jobs that would result from cutbacks on the scale proposed.

Parts of the Alberta economy are already being hurt because billions of dollars' worth of investment in oil sands in the province has been held up. A number of projects have been placed in abeyance, in one case by industry, in other cases by the provincial government itself, as a result of the uncertainty generated by the federal-provincial squabble.

Both sides to the dispute are also aware that there would be a political price to pay if Alberta started turning off the oil tap and it could fall on either or both the Liberal government in Ottawa or the conservative government in Edmonton.

So politicians are tip-toeing through the gathering storm, careful not to close any doors but also not to give the impression that they are overflown with eagerness for negotiations.

Answering a question in the Commons a few days ago Mr Allan Rock, the finance minister, said that the federal government was prepared to negotiate on the understanding that those with whom we negotiate are also prepared to make accommodations and changes.

Asked point blank whether it was willing to discuss the new taxes on oil and gas, he replied

non-committally: "We are prepared to discuss with the producing provinces all items which might lead to a conclusion that would be fair to all parties."

Meanwhile, the national energy programme is taking its toll in other directions. Oil drilling rigs are said to be moving back to the United States from western Canada because of reduced exploration incentives.

Earlier this month, Mobil Oil Canada cut its 1981 capital investment programme from \$355m to \$315m, with a warning that the energy programme would reduce the province's exploration by more than 60 per cent. The investment value of several planned projects was now doubtful, the company said.

Mobil operates a consortium which wants to develop the Hibernia discovery off the Newfoundland coast.

In Toronto the chairman of the Toronto-Dominion Bank, Mr Richard Thomson, went further. He told the bank's annual meeting in Toronto that the energy programme could produce a "national disaster". It could leave Canada, which already imports large quantities of oil for its eastern seaboard, more dependent on offshore petroleum and so draw the country towards energy self-sufficiency.

It is also taken for granted in some quarters that the Canadianization aspect of the energy programme will eventually cause repercussions in the international investment community and in board rooms of the multinational oil companies.

Among other things, the plan calls for Petro-Canada, a crown-owned company, to take over the Canadian operations of one or more of the multinationals—provided, of course, if possible and presumably through expropriation if necessary.

Mr Lalonde says that he hopes that in 1981 Petro-Canada will buy out "at least one, two or three foreign companies with a view to enhancing Canadian ownership."

Mr MacEachen for his part, is little impressed by what he calls the "oilist dires" recited by opposition MPs. "I think it is absolutely clear that the cash flow available to the industry is ample and growing," he told the Commons.

No other sector in the Canadian economy has the opportunity for growth and development that this industry has."

Business Diary: Go West, young woman • Card vote

The engineering industry, never a great employer of women at management level, has come up with a useful way of making the fifth anniversary of the passage of the Sex Discrimination Act and the implementation of the Equal Pay Act.

Harry Wood, head of the management development centre of the West Midlands Engineering Employers' Association, plans to hold courses this year aimed at preparing women for jobs in management.

Furthermore, the WMEA is acting as host to Stephanie Gaunt and Mandy Collett, two researchers with a grant from the Equal Opportunities Commission. With it they will be coming up with ideas for company training programmes that discriminate for, instead of against, women.

A "Women in Management" course was held last year, after Wood noted that the proportion of women in engineering management was "at around 2 per cent" and still falling.

This was a six-week course attended by 12 women, of whom all but two were employed. Employers inside and outside engineering were reluctant to free women for a course that long.

The two women researchers were recruited from last year's intake, Stephanie Gaunt being one of the two who had a job. The other woman who had a job has since been promoted and all the others have since found work.

This year's courses will be restricted so that more employed women can enrol.

If I had had some of our office writing paper on me yesterday I would have sought Peter Royle's opinion of it; but I had to make do with my card.

Royle, a director of his family's printing company, W. R. Royle, is chairman of the council which is asking 50,000 users of business stationery to enter for the 1981 British Letterhead Awards.

On being pressed to comment, Royle described my card the standard item which Timespeople prefer to contacts, as "terrible".

I think Royle may have a point, although in fairness I must point out that our design people were not too taken with Royle's own card.

Royle's remarks were not the first printing surprise of the day. As I left to see him I opened a letter which was a fraternal greeting sent to all Times Newspapers employees, by Rupert Murdoch. This, too, under a "Times Newspapers letter-heading, although at this time Murdoch's bid was still conditional.

But then Rupert Murdoch himself may have been surprised to see himself described as Robert Murdoch in an edition of yesterday's paper.

There is some indignation among consumers about a singularly complacent (and hitherto unnoticed) announcement by the Department of Trade. It purports to give an account of a recent meeting of the Economic Community Group (CECG) had with Sally Oppenheim, the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

The CECG represents 22 United Kingdom consumer organizations and it wanted the meeting to put across its unanimous view that it would be disastrous if the Government persisted with its intention to put into the EEC's draft directive on product liability a state of the art defence.

This would enable the makers of products which subsequently prove dangerous to plead "I didn't know the gun was loaded".

The Department of Trade's announcement says: "It was recognized that there was a considerable divergence of views even within the consumer movement on many aspects of the directive" and concludes that "one of the most important improvements" Mrs Oppenheim would be seeking to the directive would be "the introduction of the state of the art defence".

The CECG says that its member groups have seldom been so united as they are in opposition to the Government's position on the "state of the

W R Royle and Son Limited / Royle Publications Limited
Card vote

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Results for the year to 30 September:-

	1980 £000	1979 £000	% Increase
Turnover	80,635	67,188	20.0
Profit before tax and extraordinary items	4,895	4,634	5.8
Earnings per share	26.06p	24.58p	6.0
Dividends per share	7.89p	7.50p	5.2

"For the fourth consecutive year the Group has increased both profits and earnings per share.

Our overseas companies have made a very important contribution, particularly those in North America.

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We face the future with confidence and a great deal of determination."

Alastair McCorquodale, Chairman

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Equities still strong on hopes of MLR cut

Hopes of a cut in MLR in the Budget on March 10 kept hopes alive in the market yesterday as equities maintained their strong start to the account.

Volume was slightly up on Monday's business, but trade remained thin with prices showing exaggerated gains. Once again investors were concentrating their efforts on the more favourable sectors of strong performance by electricals, insurance and oil shares. Elsewhere, dealers were kept on the hop by the numerous bid situations and company news.

So, sentiment continued to improve and when the unemployment figures were released, which showed the eighth consecutive increase to 2.4m, the market was able to disregard it. Only the last gloomy report from the CBI caused any minor tumbles, but after lunch the market continued its advance helped by a strong opening on Wall Street.

The FT Index rose by 5.7 by midday, before retreating to only 3.8 higher at 3 pm. It eventually closed 5.5 up at 467.4.

Gold shares were also in better form following the rally in the bullion price, up £2 at \$517.50.

Gilt came back into favour, helped by speculation that the new "tap" where applications close today, will be warmly received and a bullish circular from brokers Panmure Gordon. In long, gains of up to £4 were reported, while in shorts, prices closed unchanged after earlier rises of £1/16.

Leading industrial saw little inquiry but share prices continued to be marked higher in line with the advance in the rest of the market. Among those to end the day 2p or 3p higher were ICI at 290p, Beecham at 172p, Glaxo at 255p, Unilever at 446p and GKN at 143p.

In papers, full-year figures from Reed International were

in line with most expectations and the shares ended the day 1p higher at 183p, while Rowat remained unchanged at 183p. Shares of Bristol Evening Post picked up 5p to 173p, still overshadowed by fears that the 190p-a-share bid from Associated Newspapers might be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Shares of

Shareholders of UDT waiting patiently for further news of the 60p-a-share bid from Lloyd's which may not have much longer to wait. The directors were said to have had a meeting with the institutions yesterday which may signal the rejection of L & S followed by a counter-bid from elsewhere. The shares rose 1p to 53p.

Associated hardened 3p to 238p, while the news that New International's offer for The Times and Sunday Times would not be referred to the Monopolies Commission resulted in a 2p rise at 93p, while International Thomson ended 7p dearer at 284p.

Electricals enjoyed another worthwhile session but were reported to be looking a little tired by the close, in spite of the continuing thin conditions.

GEC rose 5p to 600p, Thorn EMI 3p to 297p and Plessey 2p

to 276p, but Rascal reporting tomorrow, looked decidedly nervous, losing 7p to 308p. Speculative attention lifted Muirhead 7p to 84p as buyers still banked on a bid from Tyco Laboratories. Interest was also expressed in Electrocomp, up 35p at 665p, and Kode International 15p better at 268p. Full-year figures from Eurotherm International were judged to be much better than expected as the shares advanced 15p to 246p and Unitech, reporting next week, expanded 10p to 252p.

In foods, the expected £45m rights issue from Associated Dairies caused only mild interest as the shares slipped 2p to 183p, but Glass Glover, weighing in with improved full-year figures, closed 4p dearer at 54p. In contrast, Somportex, which reported recently, dipped 30p to 730p on profit-taking.

The reduction in profits at the half-year stage left Benjamin Priest 7p lighter at 45p, while disappointing figures and a line of 1m shares on offer at 7p left MFI Furniture tumbling 11p to 32p.

Disappointing figures also left Incheape 12p lower at 428p, but dealers took heart in the interim statement from Stewart Plastics, 3p higher at 79p. A £990m cash-injection by

the Government saw shares of EL rise 3p to 21p in an exceptionally thin market which in turn sparked off a 6p rally in Lucas at 171p, in the wake of recent warnings about lay-offs.

Shares of Renwick returned from suspension up 8p at 86p following the counter-bid from Kangra International and hopes of improved terms from Bahco lifted Record Ridgway 6p to 43p. W. A. Tyack, holding a sizable stake in Record, rose 4p to 36p.

Speculative buying had Pritchard Services 6p ahead at 130p, along with Richards & Wellington, 4p to 28p. R. P. Martin added 2p to 150p despite the breakdown in talks with Bierbaum. Acquisition news had Dundonian 7p heavier at 64p and F. Pratt, awaiting figures, climbed 7p to 50p. But Mercantile House encountered good buying in a thin market, on the back of recent figures, rising 30p to 600p.

Builders made further good gains, with rises in Redland 7p to 167p, Blue Circle 6p to 350p and Barratt Developments 8p to 155p.

Hopes of no further increase in duty in the forthcoming Budget brought a welcome spurt to drink shares. Allied added 2p to 67p as did Bass 8p to 207p, Grand Metropolitan 8p to 162p, Arthur Bell 6p to

170p and Distillers 3p to 181p. News of President Reagan's proposals to de-control the price of oil saw renewed interest in oils. BP expanded

Note the recent weakness in shares of Dreamland Electrical where the price has dropped from 25p to as low as 17p. Brokers are worried that full-year profits, due soon, may be worse than expected, after the midwinter. Dreamland admits to a sharp drop in demand, which has put its factory on a three-day week and is likely to hit profits. The shares rose 1p to 20p yesterday.

Sp to 410p, Ultramar 5p to 488p and Lasso 13p to 687p, but switching into Royal Dutch saw Shell 6p off at 428p. Among second-liners, KCO International rose 8p to 171p on news of its 51 per cent acquisition of Baron Oil Clyde Petroleum was also wanted, up 65p at 760p despite details of a gas deal from the Isle of Wight.

The steadier gold price brought in buyers from the Continent and New York for mines with Anglo Am Gold up £1 at 236p, St. Helens £1 to 215p and Vaal Reefs £1 to 231p. Equity turnover on January 26 was £98.132m (15,908 bargains). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were BSE, BAI, GEC, Shell, De Beers, ICI, BP, BHP, P&O, Hong Kong and Shanghai, Burmah, Charterhouse, Premier Oil and Tricor.

Traded options had a better day with 1,186 contracts. Courtauld April 50s and Grand Metropolitan April and July 160s were active, while Lorbio May 100s and 110s were busiest. Traditional options saw calls strangled in gold shares. Nevertheless, the upward Elsbury, and Free State Geduld at a uniformly high 15 per cent of their share prices. Puts were done in ICI at 14p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
for FY	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Assoc Dairies (I)	598(448)	22.7(22.5)	4.5(4.49)	1.7(1.5)	—	3.7(3.1)
Barratt Developments	4,283(4.1)	24.7(2.9)	14.8(1.8)	3(3)	—	4.5(4.9)
Eurotherm (F)	24.8(21.6)	2.4(2.2)	5.2(4.38)	1.6(1.4)	1/4	2.1(1.85)
Glaxo (F)	37.6(30.4)	0.6(0.53)	5.7(4.38)	1.1(1.1)	1/4	2.1(1.85)
Incheape (I)	39.1(31.1)	1.0(0.8)	2.0(1.6)	1.6(1.6)	2/3	1.6(1.6)
MFI (F)	90(56.1)	0.4(0.12)	0.24(0.16)	1.0(1.02)	2/3	1.6(1.6)
Ben Priest (I)	21.9(22)	1.26(1.05)	—	—	—	—
Stewart Plastics (I)	4.1(4.25)	7.75(7.58)	—	—	—	—
Town & City (I)	18.24(17.59)	0.06(0.055)	1.01(0.05)	0.8(0.7)	11/4	1.0(0.91)
Unilever (F)	5.8(5.1)	0.73(0.63)	1.01(0.05)	0.8(0.7)	11/4	1.0(0.91)
Zettlers (I)	—	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits shown are pretax and earnings are net. *adjusted for scrip issue; +forecast total; =gross income; \$=loss; \$=gross income from property.

Eurotherm down 17pc for year

After a 13 per cent drop in last-year taxable tax profits, Eurotherm International, the control gear group based at Worthing, went on to suffer a 17 per cent fall to £2.4m over the full year to October 31. Sales, by contrast, rose 14.3 per cent to £24.8m, almost as fast as in the first six months. The ordinary dividend stays at 4.5p net or 6.44p gross with a final payment of 3p a share.

The group suffered from rapidly rising costs, high interest rates and the strength of sterling. The group sells products like industrial temperature control equipment which goes to industries suffering



Dr. Jack Leonard, incoming chairman of Eurotherm.

most from the world recession. Despite this, ten of the 13 trading companies in the group, had a good year over eight more made money.

The fall in profits reflected technical problems not overcome until late in the year, while the strong pound forced the United States company in widening its margins by manufacturing more over there. Several new lines are now ready for sale; the expenditure on them fell into 1979.

This past year borrowings fell £600,000 to £3.3m. Total business is at present holding up well, but international cannot see very far ahead. There is, however, no cause for pessimism, the board reports. At the pending annual meeting, Mr. Jim Hartnett steps down as chairman in favour of Dr. Jack Leonard.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Monthly figures for unemployment in the UK, published by the Department of Employment yesterday.	Adults (Adjusted)	% of all employees	Unadj. inc.
1980			
Jan.	1,327	8.5	1,470
Feb.	1,322	8.5	1,468
March	1,413	8.9	1,477
April	1,458	9.0	1,522
May	1,484	9.1	1,509
June	1,536	9.4	1,589
July	1,600	9.7	1,696
Aug.	1,575	9.6	2,001
Sept.	1,784	7.0	2,039
Oct.	1,997	8.6	2,063
Nov.	2,028	8.8	2,164
Dec.	2,123	8.8	2,283
1981			
Jan.	2,238	9.3	2,419

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Seasonally adjusted (excluding school leavers)	Number	Change in month	% of emp.
South East	41.3	+2.3	8.8
East Anglia	54.1	+2.8	7.5
West Midlands	126.6	+4.0	8.3
W. Midlands	133.3	+4.9	8.6
E. Midlands	129.8	+4.0	8.4
Yorkshire & Humber	208.7	+10.9	9.8
N. West	300.1	+13.9	9.9
North	171.9	+7.2	12.4
Wales	133.3	+2.8	12.3
Scotland	222.3	+8.3	12.4
Britain	2,145.0	+99.7	9.1
N. Ireland	60.9	+2.3	16.8
UK	2,205.9	+102.6	9.3

Town & City interim loss higher

Town and City Properties' pretax loss was slightly higher, at £7.5m, in the half-year to September 28, 1980, compared with a loss of £5.7m last time. Net income from property rose from £3.16m to £4.7m and income from other sources from £3.36m to £3.55m, making a total of £7.82m, against £6.52m. However, interest payable grew from £14.1m to £15.57m.

Since last July, a further £1m of property has been sold with a book value of £14m. This brings the total of sales since March last year to £21m, with a book value of £15m. As last year, there is no interim dividend.

Dundonian to buy Planned Savings

Surrey-based Dundonian Ltd, which is in property development, natural resources and public services, is to buy Planned Savings (Holdings). This company provides management services, including life

assurance, administrative pensions and investment management, to companies, trusts, pension funds, friendly societies and private clients. The price is £250,000 cash and £12,500 ordinary shares in Dundonian, to be issued at 80p each.

Planned Savings' pretax profits for 1980 were about £105,000. The takeover will considerably enhance Dundonian's finance and insurance interests and will create a stronger financial services division with funds under management of more than £25m in balance with other group activities.

Record profit again from Glass, Glover

Record results are once again reported by the Glass, Glover Group, the food distributor and importer of fresh fruit and vegetables. In the 12 months to September 30, 1980, pretax profits rose by 23.5 per cent to a record £659,000, rump turn-

over expanded from £304.3m to £376.3m. Turnover and profits have risen to fresh records each year since 1976 and have doubled in that period. The net gross dividend is being raised from 2.64p to 3p.

Zettlers up a fifth at half-time

Zettlers, the pools and bingo group, reports a 19.8 per cent rise in pretax profits to £37,000 for the half-year to September 30. This was achieved on turnover 15.4 per cent higher at £5.88m, after deducting payments to pools winners and betting tax totaling £6.12m, against £5.39m last time. The interim payment is being lifted from 1.07p gross to 1.21p.

Rights issue for SPO Minerals

SPO Minerals, the mining company, launched last year, plans to raise £482,000 from a one-for-four rights issue and use the proceeds to buy Doe Lea Colliery in Derbyshire. The new shares are to be offered at 105p each. At the same time, SPO announced that it has sold for £187,500 its 5 per cent stake in Carnon Consolidated Tin Mines, which owns the Wheal Jane mine in Cornwall. The stake was sold to Rio Tinto Zinc, which now controls all of the equity. SPO will be paying £373,000 for Doe Lea, which is one of the larger private coal producers in Britain licensed by the National Coal Board.

Briefly

Premier Consolidated Offshores: Conroy Petroleum and Natural Resources and Premier have agreed to form a consortium which will apply for exclusive exploration licences in offshore Irish waters. Both Premier and Conroy not only will seek blocks under the proposed second round of licensing, but also may seek allocations of blocks under the "open-door" approach to the Department of Arthur Lee & Sons: Mr P. W. Lee, chairman, reports in his annual statement that the trading situation remains depressed. It does seem possible, he says, that the low point in order intake was in October and there has been some slight improvement since then. Nevertheless, the current half-year is likely to be "very unsatisfactory".

Reo Stakis Organisation: Mr Reo Stakis, the chairman, reports that trading in the first six months of 1980-81 has been very difficult, although certain areas of business seem to be continuing. The general limit is confident that even if the group is affected in the short-term by the recession, it will continue to prosper and be successful. Turnover for half-year to October 31, 1980, £4.17m (£4.25m). Pretax profits £1.26m (£1.05m), including interest receivable of £62,000 (£62,000). Interim dividend unchanged. Vantage Securities: Gross income for 1980, £56,000 (£55,000). Total dividend £1.25p (1.25p) gross. Barmouth: Turnover for half-year to September 28, 1980, £4.26m (£3.41m). Pretax loss £194,000 (£194,000). No dividend (1.45p gross last time).

Local Authority Bonds: Interest rate on this week's issues of Local Authority yielding bonds is 13 1/2 per cent (13 1/2 per cent). (Last week 13 1/2 per cent at 100p). Hambro Trust (the company's principal asset comprises shares in Hambro's Limited). The increase in dividends receivable during the half-year to December 31, 1980, mainly from Hambro's Limited, has resulted in a 10 per cent increase in the amount available for ordinary shareholders to £207,000, compared with last year's £157,000. The limit of £207,000 (£207,000) has been decided to increase the rate of interim dividends to 1.35p per share (last year the 1.25p paid) and 25p (fully paid) ordinary shares, compared with 1p per share (net) last year.

General first year's backing: An agreement in principle has been reached for Charterhouse Development Capital to purchase a minority shareholding in K. McDonald Construction for £175,000. This £175,000-based civil engineering contractor is currently working on a £1.5m contract for the construction of a new bridge over the River Forth, which is involved in a wide range of engineering projects including drainage, water-laying and road work in Southern Scotland, intends using part of this sum to develop its activities in Central Scotland.

Marine underwriters see another bleak year ahead

By Richard Allen
Insurance Correspondent
Insured by three years of heavy losses, marine underwriters in the London insurance market still see little hope of recovery in the near future. Speaking at the annual meeting of the Institute of London Underwriters yesterday, Mr Geoffrey Merriman, the chairman, claimed that some underwriters are now making losses even after taking into account investment income earned on premiums. "It is a bleak outlook for 1981", he said. The I.L.U., which represents the company side of the marine insurance market in London, generally reported a significant decline in overall merchant

Kangra International wins control of Renwick Group

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Kangra International Holdings has won control of Renwick Group and is making a general 85p-a-share offer, valuing the fuel distribution to travel agents group at £7.5m—nearly a third more than the agreed bid from AAF which lapsed earlier this month. Renwick shares closed 8p up at 86p.

Mr G. J. Beck, a South African businessman, has emerged as the principal behind Kangra, an off-the-shelf "Hongkong" company. Mr Beck has private interests in South Africa, which include seven coal mines, poultry, stores and horse-breeding.

Kangra built up a 27.5 per cent stake in the Renwick voting shares just before Christmas and successive market purchases carried out by stockbrokers A. J. Bekhor. On Mon-

day, it gained control of Renwick by buying another 2.23m shares at 35p from Uto Bank of Zurich, giving it 50.9 per cent of the voting capital. Uto Bank also acquired its shares, for itself and six unrelated clients, through Bekhor.

Presented with a fait accompli, Renwick's directors, who last October agreed a 65p-a-share bid from AAF, the industrial holding company, have recommended the Kangra offer, and accepted in respect of their own shares although Renwick directors recently sold about half their shares in the market at around 73p.

Mr Kenneth Holmes, Renwick chief executive, said the board had no difficulty in recommending the offer which was a good one for shareholders. He said Mr Beck intended "to support and encourage the development of the business. He is a man who is capable of giving us considerable support internationally."

Hanson Trust extends £13m bid for CMT

By Margaret Pagano
Hanson Trust yesterday extended its £13m bid for Central Manufacturing & Trading following informal indications from the Takeover Panel that rival bidder Caparo Investments should lay its terms on the table. However, neither Caparo nor its advisers, nor Robert Fleming, merchant bankers to CMT, was personally informed by the panel, but received the news via a statement from Hanson Trust. A spokesman said they were "surprised".

The statement from Hanson said that the panel had requested Caparo to inform CMT shareholders by February 3 whether or not it intended to make an offer for the outstanding shares in CMT. "In these circumstances Hanson feels it is only right to extend its offer until 3 pm on Friday, February 13", it stated.

However, Mr Peter Fraser, of the panel, said last night that there had been some misunderstanding by Hanson and its bankers, N. M. Rothschild. He said they had "only informally been told that we would not be able to let this matter drift on forever". That day, he said, the fifteenth day of the bid, February 13, had been drawn from the air and not been a precise instruction. "Inevitably, there must come a time when something must be said and

they assumed we had made a precise instruction. Caparo know that we cannot let this go on forever."

Hanson received only 240,000 acceptances for its 49p cash per share offer for CMT's shares by its second closing date on Monday.

Hanson, held 13.3 per cent of CMT, when it made its first offer last November. This was shortly followed by formal rejection document sent to shareholders by the CMT board, which described the bid as grossly undervaluing the company. Mr Roger Lewis, acting chairman, considered "an opportunistic attempt to acquire CMT at a low point in the economic cycle". The board has consistently upheld this view and Hanson has responded with an attack on the group's assumptions of a return to profitability.

Exxon Corporation income clipped in last quarter

Exxon Corporation's fourth quarter net income was 1.1 per cent down at \$1,350m (£562m) or \$3.12 a share on total revenue of \$28,847m. (Last year 1979 fourth quarter net income was \$1,356m or \$3.10 a share.) The decline in net income was attributed to lower operating earnings which were partly offset by increased gains on foreign exchange translations. For the whole of 1980 net income was \$5,660m against \$4,290m on revenues of \$110,470m against \$84,970m.

Video boom aids TDK

TDK Electronics Co. Japan's top manufacturer of ferrites and magnetic tapes, has reported record consolidated earnings for the year to November 30, after a brisk increase in sales of all products and a jump in exports. TDK officials said that net profits were 21,273m yen (£43.68m), a 35.8 per cent jump from 15,666m yen a year before. Sales rose to 214,773m yen, up 36.9 per cent from 156,892m yen in the preceding year.

Earnings per common share rose to 208.39 yen from 156.01 yen. The record earnings came against the backdrop of an upsurge in demand for video tape recorders. TDK officials noted that VTR production in the Japanese electronics industry doubled in 1980 and, with it, their company's VTR-related products showed a sharp sales increase.

Bahco hopes to agree higher bid for Record

By Catherine Gunn
Fresh talks between Sheffield tool manufacturer Record Ridgway and bidder Bahco could lead to a higher, agreed cash offer for Record today.

Record Ridgway's board announced that the talks were taking place yesterday, and advised shareholders to take action on the existing extended offer from Bahco of 37p a share, pending an announcement it hopes to make today.



Mr. Antony Hampton of Record Ridgway.

Last night Mr James Powell of Guinness Mahon, Bahco's adviser, said: "We are in discussion in an effort to find a basis on which the board of Record and their advisers could recommend a bid by us. It is hoped that we will be able to make an agreed cash offer." Bahco is the British subsidiary of Swedish tool and components manufacturers A. B. Bahco.

Record Ridgway's share jumped 6p to 43p yesterday on the news of the renewed talks, which were resumed late last week. Earlier this month they stood at a high of 46p after an unnamed rival bidder unexpectedly entered into discussions with Record. But that bidder suddenly withdrawing the shares which on Monday this week were standing at the original Bahco offer price of 37p.

That offer valued Record at £4.15m and was resisted by the board as inadequate. Talks between Record and Bahco broke down in December after nine months when the two groups could not agree on the proposed price. Bahco went ahead with its offer, but acceptances totalled only 19.3 per cent.

The first offer was extended until the end of this month with the proviso that further extensions could only last until February 22.

Record Ridgway made a £22,000 pretax loss in the year to September 28, 1980.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	14%
Bancassurance	14%
BCC	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSS	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

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The Over-the-Counter Market

76	—	—	—	—
76	—	5.5	5.7	4.8
76	-1	6.4	5.7	3.5
76	—	11.0	19.6	2.6
78	—	3.1	4.0	—
78	+1	6.9	6.4	4.1
70	+1	7.9	6.6	9.8
71	—	31.3	9.5	—
73	—	5.3	10.0	3.8
76	-1	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	—	—	—	—
76	—	15.0	19.7	—
77	+1	3.0	8.1	5.7
71	—	5.7	5.6	5.6
76	+2	12.1	4.7	4.7

Stock Exchange Prices

Rally maintained

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Jan 26. Dealings End, Feb 6. Contango Day, Feb 9. Settlement Day, Feb 16
 * Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1980/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld	1980/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld	1980/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld	1980/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld	1980/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld
BRITISH FUNDS																			
1000/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld	1000/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld	1000/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld	1000/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld	1000/81 High Low Company	Price	Chg	Yld
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN																			
LOCAL AUTHORITIES																			
DOLLAR STOCKS																			
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS																			
BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES																			
SHIPPING																			
MINES																			
FINANCIAL TRUSTS																			
INSURANCE																			
INVESTMENT TRUSTS																			
PROPERTY																			
RUBBER																			
TEA																			
MISCELLANEOUS																			
RECENT ISSUES																			

الاصول

World recession and the averages of inflation appear to do little to dampen the international property market. Houses which attract the attention of the very rich will not draw large crowds of potential buyers, but here are enough well heeled clients visiting Britain's estate agencies for deals to be clinched. Knight, Frank & Rutley, the London agents in conjunction with John German Ralph Pay, are convinced they will not have to wait long before a buyer is found for what must be one of

the capital's most expensive properties to come on the market for quite a while.

An Iranian businessman has decided to sell 28 Wilton Crescent, in Belgrave, after having spent almost two years and more than £500,000 on refurbishing the four-storey house. In all that time he has never lived in the house but has resided in the mews cottage at the rear.

Refurbishment, which has been painstakingly undertaken by Sir Basil Spence, is virtually completed and the property is ready to move into.

The asking price for the house and the cottage is £1.75m and the agents believe this is the highest price sought in the area. The agents already report interest from foreign buyers.

The main house has three reception rooms; five bedrooms, four bathrooms fitted with Italian marble, a panelled library and a self-contained flat.

At basement level the house has its own private swimming pool, a jacuzzi, sauna, steam bath and impulse shower. There is also an area fitted out as a gymnasium which can also be used

as a discotheque, because it has a sprung wooden floor. Another interesting feature is the walk-in strong room in the library behind a false book case.

There is a highly sophisticated security system with a closed circuit television.

At the rear of the house and connected by a 60ft roof terrace is the mews cottage which could provide office facilities, as a telex is already installed.

It has a large reception room, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, kitchen, sunroom, all decorated to a high standard, secretary's office and an integral garage with parking for four cars.

The house and cottage are part of the Grosvenor estate and are offered on a 55 year lease. Both are ready for immediate occupation.

For those with more modest tastes and incomes, a slightly unusual house is on offer through Braxtons the Bartle agents. Built by James Burton, the creator and builder of Regency St Leonards, the Clock House at Maze Hills, St Leonards on Sea, Sussex, was used as his own home. It is a

Grade 2 listed building completed in 1928 and resembles a small fortress.

The agents say that the house has been completely modernised and refurbished and stands in about a one third of an acre which has been landscaped providing a great deal of privacy.

It has two main reception rooms and 4/5 bedrooms and is on the market at an asking price of £82,000.

Another very different house is the Embassy Suite, situated immediately by the first fairway of the Glenegles golf course, Perthshire, which is part of a small 'discreet' development partly hidden among the trees which surround the course.

It has three double bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, a study/sitting room, a large reception room and a dining area. Panoramic views of the golf course from the rooftop terraces are the strong selling point of the development.

Strutt & Parker are the agents and invite offers above £195,000.

Baron Phillips

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building with multiple chimneys, possibly a factory or industrial structure, viewed from a distance. The image is very dark and grainy, with the building appearing as a silhouette against a lighter background. The chimneys are prominent on the roofline. The overall quality is poor, resembling a low-quality photocopy or a heavily underexposed photograph.

Close to £150,000 has been paid for Mixbury Hall, Mixbury, near Brackley, Northants, through the Banbury office of Lane Fox & Partners.

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Large Modernised Cottage.
Grassing, Stabling
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(Ref. RSF)

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HEREFORD OFFICE : Thorpe House, Broad St. Tel. (0432) 4202.

LONDON FLATS

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Readers are strongly advised to seek legal advice before putting with any person or company signing any agreement to acquire land or property overseas.

CHELSEA TOWERS, SW3?

West facing 2nd floor flat.
Large recep. & beds, 2 baths. 1 en suite, fitted kitchen. Independent c.h. & h.w. garage space, no garden, entryphone, porter. Lease 63 years.
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THE TIMES

**On Valentines Day
let The Times make something
of your sweet nothings.**

On February 14th it's not only what you say, but how you say it, that matters.

And, when you think about it, a Valentine Card says very little indeed.

Could such a missive ever convey the feelings of one whose very being is in the grips of an all-consuming passion?

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Worse still, the custom of omitting one's name could lead to some confusion. And, unthinkable though it may be, even lead your sweetheart into the arms of another.

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The answer is to place a message in the Valentine's page of The Times.

Don't be shy. You'll be in the company of the country's greatest lovers.

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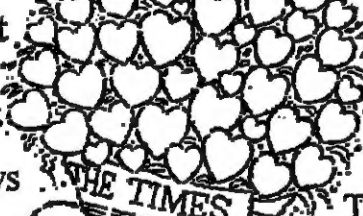
Included in our price is a bound, sealed, illustrated volume of poems simply called 'love.'

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Place your message here (BLOCK CAPITALS)	Name of sender
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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am For Schools. Colleges: Technical Studies—Sand Casting; 9.35 Maths Angles; 9.55 Wearing the Right Clothes; 10.12 Words and Pictures; 10.30 Home Economics; 11.02 Everyday Maths; 11.25 You and Me (not Schools); 11.40 English; 12.05 German. Closes at 12.30.

12.45 pm News.

1.00 pm Public Mail at One. On the programme today is Ian Lyon with information on cheaper air fares and suggestions for holidays in the Far East. In addition a well known personality will prepare their favourite dish in the regular feature, Star Chef. 1.45 pm News.

2.01 For Schools. Colleges: Shoes in all shapes and sizes. 2.18 Twentieth Century History. 2.40 Read On 1.

3.00 pm Speak for Yourself. Advice for people who want to apply for a refund for faulty goods (shown yesterday on BBC 2). 3.25 Della Smith's Cookery Column. Soups and Soups are the subject of this

BBC 2

10.20 am Gharbar. Advice for Asian women. Closes at 10.45.

11.00 Play School. Floella Benjamin and Fred Harris are the presenters and the story is Ted. The Old Tractor. Closes at 11.25.

5.30 pm Harold Lloyd. The bespectacled comedian wins a live turkey in Hot Water and then an illegal gambling establishment in Bumping Into Broadway.

5.55 pm Up. The fourth of ten films for young people. In this evening's programme they give their views on drugs and drink to Rowdy Yates of Lifeline Project.

6.20 pm The Master Game. Jeremy James presents the fourth game of the 13 match competition. It is

between Lothar Schmid of West Germany and Hein Donner of the Netherlands.

6.50 pm Grapevine. A magazine programme featuring a girl who is socially beyond. 7.25 News and Lovers. A dramatization in seven parts of D. H. Lawrence's famous novel about Tom and Edith. 10.20 pm God and the Scientist. In the second of six programmes the second of the series of the World of Communication and Neuro-science at Keele University talks to Ronald Eyring about the relationship between his brain research and his Christian beliefs.

10.45 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Party.

10.50 pm News. The latest news plus reports on the stories that made today's headlines presented by Peter Snow, Charles Wheeler, and Peter Goss. 11.00 pm Regional News. The programme ends at 11.40.

Regions

10.50 pm News. The latest news plus reports on the stories that made today's headlines presented by Peter Snow, Charles Wheeler, and Peter Goss. 11.00 pm Regional News. The programme ends at 11.40.

10.50 pm News. The latest news plus reports on the stories that made today's headlines presented by Peter Snow, Charles Wheeler, and Peter Goss. 11.00 pm Regional News. The programme ends at 11.40.

Radio 4

6.00 am News.

6.10 Farming.

6.30 Today.

8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.

9.00 News.

9.05 Mid-week: Noel Edmonds and Company.

10.00 News.

10.07 Gardeners' Question Time.

10.30 Daily Service.

10.45 Story.

11.00 News.

11.05 Baker's Dozen.

12.00 News.

12.02 pm You and Yours.

12.27 Frank Muir Goes Into Gloom.

1.00 News.

1.40 The Archers.

2.00 News.

2.02 Woman's Hour.

3.00 News.

3.02 Play: So does the Nightingale by Shelagh Delaney (see Personal Choice).

3.50 Through my Window, with Michael Hardner.

4.00 Choral Evensong, from Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

4.45 Story: No Fond Return of Love (8).

5.00 pm.

6.00 News.

6.20 My Music.

7.05 The Archers.

7.20 Clockwork.

7.45 With Jones is Dead—Long Live Will Jackson, by Tim Rose.

8.45 Analysis.

9.20 Kaleidoscope.

10.00 News.

10.30 The Harp That Once, Irish harpist Turlough O'Carroll (1670-1720).

11.00 A Book at Bedtime: The Worm Forgives the Plough (3).

11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

12.00 News.

12.15-12.25 am Shipping.

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.

7.00 News.

7.05 Records: Britten, Chopin, Vaughan Williams.

8.00 News.

8.05 Records: Copland, Janacek, Mozart.

9.00 News.

9.05 Week's Composer, Rimsky-Korsakov.

10.00 Organ: Henry Smart, S. S. Wesley, Mendelssohn, F. E. Bach, F. A. C. Ouseley.

10.40 Cantatas: Britten, Rameau, Boismortier, David Tudor.

11.40 Concert: Brahms, Tchaikovsky (11.10-12.20 pm Reading).

1.00 pm News.

1.05 Piano and Percussion: Parry, Vaughan Williams, Morris, Part, John Bull.

2.05 Music Weekly.

2.55 Edward Downes conducts Proms: Schubert, Beethoven, Schumann.

4.00 Reading: Wordsworth: The Prelude (4).

4.30 Recital: Mozart, and the Violin.

4.55 News.

5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.

7.00 Song Recital: Riccardo Pick-Mastaglio, Wolf-Ferrari.

7.30 Scientifically Speaking: Night Sight, with Dr. Trevor Lamb.

8.00 London Mozart Players, part 2: C. P. E. Bach, Beethoven.

8.30 Margaret Price song recital: Schumann.

11.00 News.

11.05-11.15 Record: Neppure, The Mystic, by Horowitz.

Radio 2

5.00 am News. 5.03 Bob Kube. 7.32 Terry Wogan. 10.03 Jimmy Young. 12.03 Ed Stewart. 1.03 Much More Music. 6.03 John Dunn. 8.02 Band. 8.45 Alan Dell. 9.15 Semprini Serenade. 10.03 Tony. 10.30 Mike Sammes. 11.02 Brian Matthew. 2.02-5.00 am You and the Night and the Music.

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Steve Wright. 2.32 Dave Lee Travis. 4.32 Peter Powell. 7.00 Radio 1 Mailbox. 8.00 Richard. 10.02-12.00 pm Peel. 1.00 VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

900 World Service can be received in Great Britain on medium wave (1500-1600 kHz) at the following times (GMT): 6.00 am News. 7.00 World News. 7.05 Twenty-four Hour News. 7.10 News. 7.15 News. 7.20 News. 7.25 News. 7.30 News. 7.35 News. 7.40 News. 7.45 News. 7.50 News. 7.55 News. 8.00 News. 8.05 News. 8.10 News. 8.15 News. 8.20 News. 8.25 News. 8.30 News. 8.35 News. 8.40 News. 8.45 News. 8.50 News. 8.55 News. 9.00 News. 9.05 News. 9.10 News. 9.15 News. 9.20 News. 9.25 News. 9.30 News. 9.35 News. 9.40 News. 9.45 News. 9.50 News. 9.55 News. 10.00 News. 10.05 News. 10.10 News. 10.15 News. 10.20 News. 10.25 News. 10.30 News. 10.35 News. 10.40 News. 10.45 News. 10.50 News. 10.55 News. 11.00 News. 11.05 News. 11.10 News. 11.15 News. 11.20 News. 11.25 News. 11.30 News. 11.35 News. 11.40 News. 11.45 News. 11.50 News. 11.55 News. 12.00 News. 12.05 News. 12.10 News. 12.15 News. 12.20 News. 12.25 News. 12.30 News. 12.35 News. 12.40 News. 12.45 News. 12.50 News. 12.55 News. 1.00 News. 1.05 News. 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